



Kanara Saraswat



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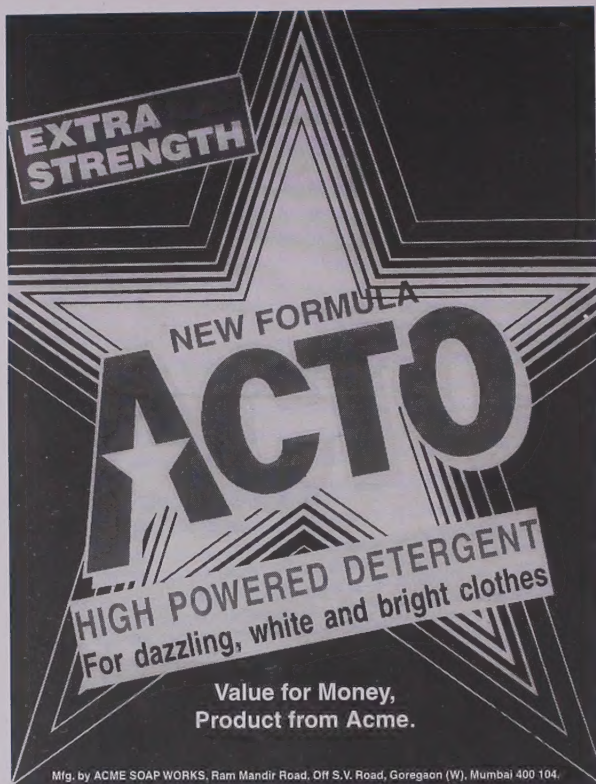


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THE KANARA SARASWAT ASSOCIATION (Regd.)

invites all for the **Saraswat Convocation**
to felicitate successful students
of the University and other examinations.

Shri Gurunath S. Gokarn, Vice President
of the Association will be

"AT HOME"

at 6 p.m. on Saturday, 9th Oct 2004.

Venue: Shrimat Anandashram Hall,

Talmakiwadi, Tardeo, Mumbai - 400 007.

Dr Shantanu Nagarkatti (Sri Govinda Das)

will be the Chief Guest who has kindly
consented to address the students.

Lt Gen Prakash Gokarn PVSM, AVSM (Retd),
President KSA

will preside.

All are cordially invited.

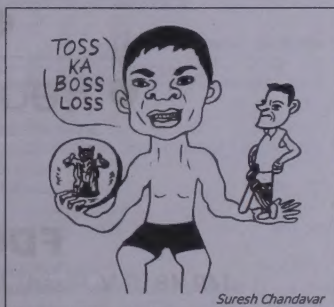
Dilip Sashtal, Jt. Hon. Secretary

[Please take your seats by 5.30 p.m.]

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- * Letters or Articles of controversial nature will not be published.
- * Unsolicited articles will not be returned.
- * The opinions expressed in the articles are those of the authors and not necessarily of KSA.
- * 'Letters to the Editor' are welcome but should be brief. These will be edited for space and clarity.
- * Articles and Letters meant for publication should be addressed only to the Editor.



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President Speaks

My visits to Shirdi are punctuated with interesting side-lights. During my last visit, **Dr. CHA Bukhari, PhD**, Principal of the Anjuman Engineering College requested me to be the Chief Guest and deliver the Valedictory Address to its 400 graduating B Tech students. This prestigious institution is located in nearby **Bhatkal** atop an imposing hill, surrounded by sister educational colleges also run by the **Anjuman Trust**. The area houses a Women's College and Hostel, a Commerce College and a Management Institute. Some students and faculty of these institutes too formed the 1000 strong audience that had come to attend the function. Though the Anjuman Trust which manages this vast educational campus comprises Muslim trustees, the faculty and students are drawn from all religions and from all parts of India. The Chief Trustee **Janab MA Gani** periodically pays his obeisance to **His Holiness Swami Sadyojat Shankarashram**, and refers to our Swamiji as a saint. When speaking to such an impressionable audience on the threshold of their careers, I chose to speak from my career experience, on the one most important quality for success i.e. **Emotional Intelligence or EI**.



For very good reasons, the emphasis in most educational institutions is on the theory and practice of the syllabus. Students are graded on the basis of their **Knowledge Quotient i.e. K.Q.** and their demonstrated practical **Intelligent Quotient or IQ**. However, whether we become engineers, entrepreneurs, teachers, scientists, project managers, consultants or technologists, excellence in our careers requires more than just I.Q.

EI includes self-awareness and impulse control, persistence, zeal and motivation, the patience to delay gratification, empathy and social deftness. These are the qualities that mark people who excel, whose relationships flourish, who are stars and in the workplace and in the home. **EI is the ability to be aware of the rising of emotions like anger, jealousy, greed, lust, selfishness and fear.** The control of such emotions, using any technique suited to one's temperament to allow these emotions to subside easily is a very important factor in creating a harmonious working and living environment and in leading a team successfully. The manner in which a person gets along with other people, especially in trying circumstances is perhaps the most important. The fine art of relationships requires the ripeness of two skills, the first being managing one's own emotions, which is self management and the second, handling emotions in someone else, which is empathy.

Through hard work and perseverance we can improve our KQ, as well as nurture and strengthen our EI. **Emotional maturity** is the ability to recognise the reality, perceive the facts of a situation correctly and respond positively to it. It is important to detach oneself from the pulls and pressures of its pleasant and unpleasant aspects. What often hampers our ability to chart a fact-map is our anxiety, insecurity and fear. When faced with a problem, an emotionally mature leader assesses the situation, sets a positive goal, examines as many solutions as possible, thinks ahead to the consequences of each option and then implements the best plan, ensuring **impulse control**.

All leaders have great smiles. Smiles are very contagious and have the power to transmit positive emotions. The greater the leader's skill in transmitting positive emotions, the higher the level of enthusiasm in the team. With this talent, leaders become emotional magnets and infuse enthusiasm, calmness and success in the work place and in the home. Follow the lives of any of our great leaders - **JRD Tata, Subash Chandra Bose, Charles Correa, Dr Homi Bhabha, Sam Pitroda, Field Marshal Sam Manekshaw, Narayan Murthy or Nandan Nilekani.** Professional success and material wealth have not changed their core values. They have only become better human beings. They have also enhanced their personalities by their commitment to social causes, the arts, the environment and to the pursuit of hobbies, all of which have expanded their areas of successful interpersonal interaction.

In the words of **Daniel Goleman** 'There is an old-fashioned word for the body of skills that Emotional Intelligence represents: **Character**'

— Lt Gen Prakash Gokarn (Retd)

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**PROJECT AMCHIS- COMPLETE LIST - CHITRAPUR SARASWATS IN DEFENCE SERVICES
PROVISIONAL LIST BASED ON RESEARCH AND READERS RESPONSE UPDATED**

AS ON 11 AUG 2004

The list contains only name, rank & decorations. **Additions/Deletions, if any, may be please brought to our notice.** The Final Directory due for release on 3 Oct 04 will contain all related data of arms/service/branch, spouses name, address, significant achievements and period served.

WACI: Women's Auxillary Corps India **INA:** Indian National Army, **RNK:** Rank Not Known, **IN:** Indian Navy
TA: Territorial Army **Legend** Memoriam= in Italics, **Retired**= Normal font; **Serving**= Bold.

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2	<i>Amembal Sundar Rao (Sqn Ldr)</i>	38	Benegal Indukant Rao (Shri)
3	Arur Manohar G (Brig)	39	<i>Benegal Mukund Rao (Lt Gen)</i>
4	<i>B Vasudev Rao (Capt)</i>	40	<i>Benegal Ramesh Sakharam (Air Cmde):</i> <i>MVC AVSM MinD</i>
5	Babulkar Ramesh B (Col) MinD	41	<i>Benegal Sumitra INA</i>
6	Bailur (RNK)	42	<i>Betrabet Vasant (Capt)</i>
7	Bailur Sanjay (Maj)	43	<i>Bhat Anand Rao (Capt)</i>
8	Baindur Ashwin Nagesh (Col)	44	<i>Bijoor Shivshankar (Gp Capt)</i>
9	Baindur Gaurishankar N (Air Cmde) VSM	45	Bijur Sharad (Lt Col)
10	Baindur Jaiprakash Vittal Rao (Col)	46	Bijur Srirang Nagesh (Cdr)
11	Baindur Nagesh Rao (Maj Gen) AVSM VSM & Bar	47	Brahmavar Ravi S (Sqn Ldr)
12	Baindur Promod (RNK)	48	Chandavarkar Bhaskar (TA)
13	<i>Baindur Suresh Rao (Maj)</i>	49	<i>Chandavarkar Bhavanishankar A (RNK)</i>
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15	<i>Bajekal RR (Capt)</i>	51	Chandavarkar Prakash Capt (IN): VrC
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19	Balsaver Sadanand (RNK)	55	Chikramane Gurunath M (Col)
20	Balse Ajit (Flt Lt)	56	<i>Damble Srikar Rao (Lt) INA</i>
21	Balse Mohan (RNK)	57	<i>Damble Suresh (Lt) INA</i>
22	Balse Suresh S (AVM)	58	<i>Dhareshwar Gurudutt Amir Rao (Lt Col)</i>
23	<i>Balsekar (Capt) (INA)</i>	59	<i>Dhareshwar Madhukar (RNK)</i>
24	Balwalli Gurudatt Raghuvver (RNK)	60	<i>Dhareshwar Mohan Anan Rao (RNK)</i>
25	Balwalli Mohan (RNK)	61	Dhareshwar Ramesh Rao (Col)
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 267 *Ragde Krishnanand (Shri)*
 268 *Ragde Sanjiv Row (Lt)*
 269 *Saletore Murli (Shri)*
 270 *Saletore Rajaram Narayan Lt (IN)*
 271 *Samsi Anant Vaman (Gp Capt)*
 272 *Samsi Gurunandan Sumitra (Wg Cdr)*
 273 *Samsi Vasant Sumitra (Wg Cdr)*
 274 *Sanadi Jairam Sarvottam (Lt Col)*
 275 *Sanadi Lakshman Rao (Capt)*
 276 *Sanadi Prakash S (Wg Cdr)*
 277 *Sanadi R Kaur (Lt Col) (Mrs)*
 278 *Sanadi Ramesh (Lt Col)*
 279 *Sanadi Ratnakar S Gp Capt*
 280 *Savkur Shivram Rao (RNK)*
 281 *Savkur Sundar Rao (Lt)*
 282 *Savoor Y R (Capt)*
 283 *Savur Amrit R (Lt Col)*
 284 *Savoor Raghuram Shanker (RNK)*
 285 *Savur RM (Shri) MBE*
 286 **Savur Sharad Yeshwant (Air Marshal)**
AVSM
 287 *Shirali Bhaskar (Lt Col)*

288 *Shirali Chaitanya (Lt Col)*
 289 *Shirali Ramesh R (Lt Col)*
 290 **Shiroor Chaitanya Shivram (Cmde)**
 291 *Shiroor Shivram A (RNK)*
 292 *Sirur Mohan A (Lt Col)*
 293 *Sirur Pritam (Maj)*
 294 *Sthalekar Prabhakar D (Col)*
 295 *Surkund Madhukar Gangadhar (Col)*
 296 *Taggarse Sharad (Lt Col)*
 297 *Taggarsa Vijaya Ganesh (Brig Ms)*
 298 *Taggarsa Shashank (Maj)*
 299 *Tonse Pandurang Row (Lt)*
 300 *Tonse Ramanand Rao (Sqdn Ldr)*
 301 *Tonse Ramanath (Flt Lt)*
 302 *Tonse Umesh Rao (Fg Offr)*
 303 *Trasi Sadanand (Wg Cdr)*
 304 *Trikannad Amrit (Capt) INA*
 305 *Trikannad Krishnanand (Lt Cdr)*
 306 *Ubhaya Narayan R (Capt) MinD*
 307 *Trikannad Shridhar (Lt) INA*
 308 *Trikannad Sunder Rao (Lt) INA*
 309 **Ubhaykar Gautam (Shri)**
 310 *Udiyavar (Shri)*
 311 *Udiyaver Suresh J (Pilot Offr)*
 312 *Udyavar Gurdas Rao (RNK)*
 313 *Udyavar Radhakrishna Dutt (RNK)*
 314 *Ullal Ananthayya (Capt)*
 315 *Ullal Maruti Rao (Maj)*
 316 *Ullal Satish (RNK)*
 317 *Upponi Prakash Capt (IN) SC NM*
 318 *Vombatkere Lakshman (RNK)*
 319 **Vombatkere Pandurang Sudhir (Lt Cdr)**
 320 **Vombatkere Sadashiv Sudhir (Cdr) NM**
 321 *Vombatkere Sudhir G (Maj Gen) VSM*
 322 *Vombatkere Sumitra (RNK)*

SONS OF AMCHI MOTHERS

323 *Kumaramangalam Parameshwaran P (Gen)*
DSO MBE
 324 *Chatterji (Hemmady) Kanu (Col)**
 325 *Naidu Dilip (Brig) VSM**
 326 **Naidu Milan (Lt Gen) YSM**

MARRIED TO AMCHI LADIES

- 327 **Arun Prakash (Admiral)**
PVSM AVSM VrC VSM ADC
- 328 Bhalerao Bhalchandra S (Shri)
- 329 **Bhambani Anil (Sqn Ldr)**
- 330 Bhate Praful M Capt (IN)
- 331 **Bhatnagar Pawan (Lt Col)**
- 332 **Bisht Dipender Singh (Gp Capt)**
- 333 *Chandran Sambasivam (Col) VSM*
- 334 Chandrasekhar K S (Wg Cdr)
- 335 **Chatterjee Samar (Lt Col)**
- 336 **Chatterjee (Lt Col)**
- 337 Chatterji (Hemmady) Kanu (Col)*
- 338 *Gill Hersern Singh (Wg Cdr) VrC (Posthumous)*
- 339 Govil Suren N (V Adm)
PVSM AVSM OBE
- 340 Handa Vinod (Col)
- 341 Hastak Sudhir (Sqn Ldr)
- 342 Joshi Anand (Cdr)
- 343 Kachroo Raj (Wg Cdr)
- 344 Kamat Narsimha V (Brig)
- 345 *Kamat Vasudev D (Lt Col)*
- 346 **Kapur Rana (Lt Gen) AVSM SM VSM**
- 347 *Kuwadekar Ramesh (Maj)*

- 348 *Lalwani Ramesh Lt (IN)*
- 349 Mandloi Uday (Surg Lt) IN
- 350 **Menon Vikram (Lt Cdr)**
- 351 Nafde Vijay R (Cdr)
- 352 Naidu Dilip (Brig) VSM*
- 353 *Naidu Lalit Kumar (Maj)*
- 354 *Natu (Sqn Ldr)*
- 355 Oberoi Satish S (Lt Col)
- 356 *Patkar Kamalkar (Lt Col)*
- 357 Prabhakar Omkar R (Wg Cdr)
- 358 *Prasad K (Brig)*
- 359 **Puri Pramod Chander (Wg Cdr)**
- 360 Rao Suresh V (Lt Col)
- 361 Rebello Joe C (Wg Cdr)
- 362 Rege Ramkrishna N (Lt Col)
- 363 Sharma Krishan K (Col)
- 364 Sharma Roshan L (Col)
- 365 **Singh Harminder (Sqn Ldr)**
- 366 Soparkar Ajay K (Col)
- 367 *Tipnis Satish Y (Lt Cdr)*
- 368 **Vartak Satyen (Lt Cdr)**
- 369 **Vashishta Vishwanath Gopalkrishna (Wg Cdr)**

* In both lists i.e. Sons of/Married to Amchis

EQUIVALENT RANKS OF THE THREE ARMED FORCES

Army

Field Marshal
General
Lieutenant General
Major General
Brigadier
Colonel
Lieutenant Colonel
Major
Captain
Lieutenant
Second Lieutenant

Navy

Admiral of the Fleet
Admiral
Vice Admiral
Rear Admiral
Commodore
Captain, IN
Commander
Lieutenant Commander
Lieutenant, IN
Sub Lieutenant
Midshipman

Air Force

Marshal of the Air Force
Air Chief Marshal
Air Marshal
Air Vice Marshal
Air Commodore
Group Captain
Wing Commander
Squadron Leader
Flight Lieutenant
Flying Officer
Pilot Officer

ADDRESSING OF OFFICERS & OTHER TRIVIA

The list given above virtually completes the census of all Chitrapur Saraswats who served in the Defence Services from approximately the year 1890 to date. This list has been given alphabetically only for ease of reference by our readers. While addressing an officer of the rank of Lieutenant Commander or Lieutenant Colonel, it is appropriate to address him as Commander or Colonel, and not as Lieutenant. Similarly it is proper to address a Major General as General and Air Vice Marshal as Air Marshal. After all we wouldn't address a Rear Admiral as Rear – would we?!

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor: On Sunday 8th August 2004, I had the privilege of attending a Free Seminar on 'How to Plan and face examinations' by Shri. Kuldeep V. Kalavar held at Lecture Hall – Andheri Sports Complex, Andheri (West). I had accompanied my son – Kartik who is appearing for the ensuing 10th Board Exams.

I was thrilled to see aspiring students in large numbers, some of them with their parents listening with rapt attention to the lecture delivered by Shri. Kalavar. With great oratory skill, Shri. Kalavar was able to drive home the message to aspiring students. With the help of Slides on Powerpoint, he dazzled the audience by giving valuable tips and guidelines to the students for succeeding in highly competitive exams like 10th and 12th Board. By comparing Exams with popular game of Cricket, he incited the students to learn the tricks of passing such Exams with flying colours. He specially compared the preparations for 10th and 12th Exams with the preparations made by the Indian Cricketers for the recently concluded Asia Cup. He dwelled on difficult topics like how to plan for exams and how to write papers within stipulated time with ease and the students could easily absorb his valuable tips because of his simple and lucid language. He concluded the session with topic on 'Career Planning'.

The success of Shri. Kalavar lies in the fact that he kept the entire audience spell bound from the start to finish with his extra ordinary command in the art of public speaking.

I sincerely thank Shri. Kuldeep Kalavar and his team, the Saraswat Visionaries Unlimited and also the Kanara Saraswat Association for arranging this free seminar for the benefit of many students and I appeal to them to hold such kind of seminars in future also.

Virar Shivanand D. Hemmady

Dear Editor: I refer to the "President Speaks" (KS Aug.04) and congratulate Lt Gen. Prakash Gokarn for the wonderful idea of honouring our martyrs who have laid down their lives for the country and more so of making people know about the sacrifices made by these "Great Men".

It also sends a message to the families of these "Great Men" that "We" the Community as a whole are with them and will always remember the sacrifices made for the country and also their families.

Wish the function a Grand Success.

Santacruz Dr. Kishor S. Nayampalli

Dear Editor: This has reference to the letter of Ms Kavita Karnad in the August issue. I admit that the glaring omission of Shri Vasant Karnad's name in my letter was an unpardonable mistake. Let me assure that

this was purely unintentional, and I request Ms Kavita and Shri Vasant Karnad to accept my sincere apologies.
Bangalore Gourang Kodical

Dear Editor: All kudos to KSA team for arranging a magnificent 'Saraswat Sangeet Sammelan' on such a grand scale. The idea was excellent.

But it would be desirable that in such Sangeet Sammelan a place or time is also set aside specially for "Sugam Sangeet". There are number of boys and girls, men and women have taken to singing "Sugam Sangeet" such as bhavgeet, bhaktigeet etc. It would be a good platform for them to present their art.

Will KSA team give this a serious thought?

Pune Anil N. Bijur

Dear Editor: You will be glad to know that the 2nd revised and enlarged edition of my book "Ad-Ventures of a P R Man" was published recently. The noted journalist, Padma Bhushan awardee and Chairman, Prasar Bharati Shri M.V. Kamath has once again been generous to give an excellent foreword.

Readers of 'KS' may recall having read few stories from my book (Saga of Surnoli and 'Chirpestra' at Hemmadi) which contain over 60 such Chapters (pages 234). Available with Strand Book Stall (Mumbai/Bangalore), KSA office and at my residence (2/10 Talmakiwadi) Ph: 23802888 - with some discount to 'KSA' members. While the paper back costs Rs. 195/- The Hard bound (Library Edition) costs Rs.395/-.

Since Shri M.V. Kamath, warns the readers in his foreword "do not start reading it (the book) while cooking food in the kitchen. The food may get burnt while your own mind is sizzling". I need not say more. They say, the taste of pudding is known only after eating. For free sample, write to author!

S.N. Surkund

Dear Editor: Referring to Shri R.N. Koppikar's article on establishment of colleges for Bhanaps in the issue of Aug. 04, his suggestion should be seriously considered by all right thinking Bhanaps. In the year 1950 when I applied for admission in the Jai Hind College for B.A., my application was kept pending disposal of all the applications of Sindhis, as they had the first preference. Finally I got the admission by a mere whisper. The college did not have its own building then and conducted classes in rented premises. Dr. T. Madhav Pai, a small town physician in Udipi built a huge college complex in Manipal which today attracts students from abroad at heavy cost. Bhanap Community which does not lack entrepreneurship, finance, academicians and administrative talent should not find it difficult to establish colleges which are also temples of education, to cater to the needs of Bhanap students.

Goregaon (E) R.P. Hirebet

Asthma and Chest Disorders Camp

It was unbelievable to see as many as 28 members (11 males and 17 females) in and around Talmakiwadi taking advantage and the Asthma and Chest Disorders Camp organised by KSA Health Centre on July 25, 2004 at the Shrimat Anandashram Hall, Talmakiwadi.



The Camp was well conducted by 'Cipla Respiratory' and Dr. Parag Mehta of Jaslok Hospital. The two technicians from Cipla, Shri Ramchandra Salunke and Anil Rane with the Medical Examination by Dr. Mehta proved to be a good team effort with their sophisticated equipments.

The Camp's success was mainly due to the timely guidance and presence of Dr. Prakash Mavinkurve as well as respectful and friendly attitude of the Doctor and the Technicians.

The Camp started at 10.15 A.M. and the last member was examined at 1.30 a.m.

KSA Health Centre expresses its sincere thanks to the doctor, the technicians from CIPLA, Dr. Prakash Mavinkurve and the participants for their inspiring support and active involvement. It feels confident that the encouraging cooperation will continue in future too, in attending Health related programmes - 'Health and Happiness', in large numbers. Similar camps are likely to be organised by the Health Centre at other Bhanap Colonies in near future.

Get-together of Our Senior Citizens

Who says at the age of 60 years you lose your health, memory as well as talents and young days? If you feel so, you are totally wrong.

KSA Health Centre has planned a special eventful day on Sunday September 26, 2004 at Shrimat Anandashram Hall, Talmakiwadi, Tardeo from 10.00 a.m. till 1.00 p.m., for Bhanap Senior Citizens including males above 60 years and females above 55 years of age.

Bhanap youngsters are requested to get along with them their dear Ajjus, Ajjis, Pappas, Uncles (Mams) and Aunties (Pachchis) and participate in the following two events.

1) Handwriting Competition 10.00-10.30 a.m.

2) Memory Test 11.00 - 11.30 a.m.

Entry Fee: Your Lovely presence, please.

Those who wish to attend are requested to inform KSA either through a letter or on phone No. 23802263 to Shobhan Rao before 20th Sept. 04.

Please treat this as one of the rare opportunities for our senior citizens "perform".

Sunil Ullal

Jt. Hon. Secretary, Health Centre

Please help KSA ?

Kanara Saraswat Association is marching towards an eventful centenary. Though considerable progress has been made by KSA since its inception, a lot more is yet to be accomplished. This would require the help of the members of the community directly/indirectly.

Whatever the members do for KSA, it tantamounts to their helping the community.

Please help us to:

- a) Enroll more Life Members particularly youngsters, and upgradation of Life Members to Patrons/ Benefactors.
- b) Donate towards the Corpus funds of KSA on any auspicious occasion in the family (e.g. Marriage/ Thread Ceremony/ Birthday/ Marriage anniversary, etc.)
- c) Form Area-wise groups of volunteers to assist in the activities of KSA particularly to locate the members/ family in distress, by providing such information to KSA for providing prompt assistance.
- d) Motivate youngsters in your locality to participate in KSA activities and enroll as volunteers for the various projects undertaken by KSA.

Contact :-

Mahesh D.Kalyanpur Chairman, KSA

Konkani Sammelan in Southern California

By Vivek Ullal, Simi Valley, CA.

The Fifth North American Konkani Convention, popularly known as Konkani Sammelan 2004 was held at Garden Grove, California, on July 2nd, 3rd and 4th, at the luxurious Hyatt Regency Orange County Hotel, near Disneyland. Over 1400 attendees from all over U.S.A., Canada, India, and a few other nations congregated. North American Konkani Conventions are held every two years.

Stage Events Including Entertainment:

The entertainment program started with the opening ceremony exactly 6:00 pm per schedule on Friday, July 2 in the Grand Ballroom. It lasted a little over two hours and consisted of a variety of items that were seamlessly strung together by a unique storyline. This storyline featured a grandfather, a grandmother and their grandson who started reminiscing about Konkani heritage, food and culture while they were stuck at New York airport because of a flight delay on the way to the Sammelan. The focus of the audience was continually flipped between the main stage and a smaller platform in front of the stage where the trio family's vignettes occurred to bridge the time gap between scenes and set changes. The opening ceremony began with an Akashvani in total darkness followed by children's candle-lit procession, Ganesha, Saraswathi and Guru Vandana dances in Odissi style, American and Indian National Anthems, and another procession of dancers whose lead person installed the *Sammelan Kalash* (ceremonial earthenware vessel) on a pedestal near the stage. This was followed by a medley of dances covering Kuchipudi, Kathak, and Bharatanatyam, a Bollywood dance, a skit on heritage, a break dance and a hip-hop dance. Toward the end there were welcome addresses by the Youth Lead and the President of the Sammelan, Dr. Ramadas Kamath. Dr. Kamath's speech was in chaste Konkani. The finalé of the opening ceremony was a boisterous kitchen serenade dance extolling the dinner menu and it ended with all dancers moving through the audience inviting them to the first dinner of the Sammelan.

The storyline was continued in the closing ceremony with the same trio introducing items such as the video on all committee chairs, the President of the Sammelan, etc. This trio also participated in the first two original Konkani songs composed and

sung by Southern California performers who also danced to those tunes. This was followed by third original Konkani song for transferring the *Kalash* (which had remained on the pedestal during the two-and-a-half days) to the Canadian KonCANI Sammelan President. The closing ceremony ended with the last original Konkani finalé song beckoning everyone to meet again in Toronto, the venue of the 2006 KonCANI Sammelan.

The uniqueness of the opening and closing ceremonies was the storyline that did not require masters of ceremony. These ceremonies were like book-ends holding a gamut of highly entertaining items together. Many of the items were embellished by Power Point and DVD presentations on the large screens. The Grand Ballroom time was devoted to a wide variety of entertainment such as a visually stunning Konkani Festivals item, an original Konkani musical, superb classical music performed by highly talented Konkani, comedy interludes, Hindi film songs, skits, dramas, classical Indian dances, a puppet show, bhajans, geets, a tribute to motherhood, fusion music, fusion dance, an original Konkani poem recitation, etc. These artistic events were interspersed with raffles, auction, recognition awards and speeches by Dr. Ramesh Gangolli (keynote), Ms. Jona Hattangadi (youth keynote), Shri K.K. Pai, Shri Yogish Bhat, Mr. Robert Arnett, and Swami Jyotirmayananda. A unique segment of the entertainment program was the Konkani Idol – Youth Music and Dance Competition that mesmerized the audience. The invited featured artists were Smt. Padmini Rao who gave a melodious vocal Hindustani classical music concert; Antarkish, the unique San Francisco Bay area Desipop (Indi-rock) band consisting of six members, two being Konkani; and the first ever brother-sister Hindustani classical vocal duo, Shri Prasad Upasani and Smt. Deepthi Upasani-Kaval. The accompanists for the Hindustani classical vocalists were Hemant Ekbote (*tabla*) and Suresh Benegal (*harmonium*).

Seminars: The Sammelan provides a unique opportunity for the community to meet at a national level, and discuss issues and to educate themselves on topics of mutual concern. The Seminars and Workshops Program provides the forum within which this process can happen. The organizers to the 2004 Sammelan made a conscious decision to expand this

forum by dedicating two separate rooms and offering 2-days full of programs concurrent with those on the main stage. Topics ranged from a Yoga Workshop, where participants learned the principles of hatha yoga and joined in a yoga practice, to a business forum led by Sudhakar Shenoy, Founder, Chairman and CEO of Information Management Consultants, Inc; from practical topics like modifying the Konkani diet to reducing the risk of heart-disease and diabetes, to an heartfelt dialogue on what Konkani heritage means, moderated by Robert Arnett, the author of the highly-acclaimed book *India Unveiled*. In keeping with the tradition of community cooperatives pioneered by Shyamrao Vithal Kaikini and S.S. Talmaki, the Seminar and Workshops Program offers a means for those in North America to come together and help each other through their personal experiences and professional expertise. There was a seminar on appreciation of Hindustani classical music, on the art of preparing for job interview, quick and efficient Konkani cooking for second generation Konkani making out on their own, time management, internet security, and improving future Konkani Conventions.

Youth Programs: The main purpose of having Youth Programs was to create an avenue for first and second generation Konkani youth in USA, to meet each other, network, and share their thoughts. Also, it was an outlet for entertainment and exchange ideas. Innovative programs such as the Konkani Idol Contest, seminars, and a crash course on Speaking Konkani was arranged.

Souvenir: An attractive souvenir containing good reference articles, articles by some professional Konkani writers, youth, Konkani poetry, cartoons, crossword puzzles and word puzzles, and photography was distributed to attendees. The articles ranged from Konkani history, Konkani language, Konkani freedom fighters, nostalgia, Konkani cuisine, Konkani performing artistes and Konkani heritage. Many articles had colorful pictures. One very popular article was an illustrated article on Konkani Hindu Festivals by five Southern California Konkani. The Konkani poetry was transcribed in both Devanagari and Roman script for the benefit of both first and second generation Konkani. The youth section had cartoons specially drawn by a Konkani cartoonist, and winning essays for the souvenir essay competition, "*What does Konkani Heritage mean to me*" The comments about the souvenir were all positive.

Distinguished Recognition Awards: Five North American Konkani were awarded distinguished recognition

awards, by a special committee, who chose the finalists from a list of over 30 candidates. All individuals considered were accomplished in their fields, and had exceptional qualities. The awardees were: Dr Ramdas Pai (Research), Dr. Prabhakar Baliga (Science), Dr. Geeta Heble (Education and Community Service), Dr. Ravishankar Kamath (Youth), and Pandit Ravi Bellare (Performing Arts).

Speeches: Keynote speech was rendered by Dr. Ramesh Gangolli, Professor of Mathematics and Adjunct Professor of Ethno-musicology, University of Washington, Seattle. The speech was in Konkani as well as in English. He spoke about challenges for Konkani youth growing up in USA, the importance of Konkani Heritage, and about Konkani itself. The speech was informative, as well as full of humor. The Youth Keynote speech was rendered by Jona Hatangadi, student at Harvard Medical School, who also did social work in Africa, is an accomplished cross-country runner, and instrumental musician. She talked about importance of youth to be involved in Social Service and Public Service. There were excellent speeches in chaste Konkani by Shri Kalsank Kamlaksha Pai, former CEO of Syndicate Bank, Manipal, Karnataka and Shri Nandavar Yogish Bhat, Member of Karnataka Legislative Assembly, and former corporator of Mangalore City Municipal Corporation. Shri Basti Vaman Shenoy of Bantwal, gave an enlightening speech about Konkani language, and the need to keep it alive. There was also an inspiring speech by Swami Jyotirmayananda, who rendered a universal prayer.

Heritage: Heritage Promotion Committee was a new idea, never conceived during previous Konkani Sammelans. The Committee coordinated with several other committees, to encourage activities to promote Konkani Heritage among the youth. The committee was responsible for exhibits outside the Grand Ballroom, where there were displays of traditional Konkani kitchen tools, such as *Ragdo*, *Koiten*, *Aadli*, *Shenvainyaa daante*, etc., a three dimensional model of Mangeshi Temple in Goa, photographs of Konkani area and Konkani festivals. It was also responsible for very creative and informative articles about Konkani Festivals, Konkani Calendar (*Panchang*), and Konkani Temples in the souvenir. One of the most talked about item on stage was the enactment of different Konkani Festivals, with an English commentary. This even included the enactment of the *Theru*, with a *Paalki* procession! There were Heritage related talks by Robert Arnett, and seminars. It also participated in items constituting the Opening and

Closing ceremonies of the Sammelan entertainment program.

Food: While listening to the strains of beautiful live Karnatak music on *nadaswaram* in the background, Guests were served delicious Konkani welcome snacks before the start of the festivities. The *nadaswaram* artistes and accompanists were specially flown in from Toronto, Canada. The Food Committee provided the attendees excellent and authentic Konkani meals 3-4 times a day during the Sammelan. The food was catered by Madras Pavilion of Houston Texas, who also catered for the Konkani Sammelan in Houston, two years ago.

Volunteers:

The Volunteer committee provided volunteers for food service, stage, registration, and senior assist committees. For the first time, food was served by a rotation of volunteers from different cities all over Canada and USA. The volunteers were the big backbone of the Sammelan, and the Volunteer Committee organized their services very well.

Host and Hospitality, Senior Assist, Golf, Decoration, Registration, Event Cordination, Medical Conference, Web Page, Raffle, and Publications & Publicity:

These were some of the committees serving extremely important service to the Sammelan. H&H assisted out of town visitors and some featured artistes and speakers, with their special needs. It negotiated special rates with door-to-door airport van service, travel agent, theme parks, etc. Senior Assist Committee coordinated with Volunteer Committee, and helped certain senior citizens who had special needs. Most seniors were escorted to the front rows of the auditorium, and taken to the front of the food line, if they were too weak to wait in line. Many were directly taken to their dining tables, and were served food on the tables. The Golf Committee arranged a Konkani Golf Tournament at the 18-hole Anaheim Hills Golf Club. About 8-10 Konkani Golfers participated. Decoration Committee decorated the entrances to the Registration area, Auditorium (Grand Ballroom), the dining tables, and other areas with imaginative and traditional artifacts. The Registration Committee very efficiently helped all registrants by checking them in, giving them their badges, gift bag (courtesy ICICI Bank) with souvenir, program guide, welcome letter with general instructions, and courtesy gifts. They had co-coordinated the registration process over several months with the web page, and avoided delays, snafus and other irritants. There were no lines at the registration area. Since

Registration was the first entity encountered by attendees, the efficiency, speed and the friendly welcome rendered by this committee, made the expectation of things to come, optimistic and pleasant. Event Coordination helped with the planning of meetings and practices leading to the Sammelan, efficient and orderly. A full fledged Medical Lecture program was in force before and after the Sammelan, and registrants were eligible for Continuing Medical Education (C.M.E) credits. Since a large portion of Sammelan attendees are physicians, this avenue offered them an ideal way to combine business with pleasure, and also meet former colleagues and medical school contacts. The excellent web page (www.konkani2004.com) was a key factor that facilitated efficiency of registration, and also serves as a source of general information about the Sammelan. It was created two years ago, and its importance grew with time. It is still operational, with post convention feedbacks, photographs and reprints of some souvenir articles. Most attendees registered on-line via the web page, and also got most of the information from it. We had very positive comments about the web page. The Raffle was well conducted and many prizes, including a round trip ticket to India (courtesy Air India Airlines),

A domestic round trip ticket, a digital camera, a stereo boom-box, etc. were distributed to lucky winners. Also, a few donated paintings were auctioned at the end of the entertainment program. Publicity and Publication Committee was responsible for the mailing of the publicity flyers, registration packets and the sale of souvenir items. They are also helping with the sale and production of the DVD set of the entertainment program of the Sammelan.

Organization: Thanks to the dedication and good planning by the Executive Committee and all other Committees, the Sammelan was well conducted and well coordinated. The venue was excellent, and all events started in timely manner. The general atmosphere of the gathering was that of a large Konkani wedding with many members of an extended family. The Budget and Fund-Raising Committee worked hard, and because of the generosity of many businesses and individuals, we had substantial donations and advertisement income to supplement the money raised by the registration dues. Due to space constraints, there has been no mention of names of individual chairpersons of committees, performers, or even Executive Committee members, since this information is available on the Sammelan web page, www.konkani2004.com, program guide, or the souvenir.

The Keynote Speaker: Dr. Ramesh Gangolli A Konkani and a Citizen of the World

Shantha Benegal, Seattle, WA

The keynote speaker for the 2004 Konkani Sammelan is Dr. Ramesh Gangolli, brilliant mathematician, scholar of music, singer, teacher, a Konkani from Mumbai, and a citizen of the world. He was among the first Konkanis to migrate to the USA.

In 1950, when Ramesh was 15 years old, and in his first year B.Sc. class, he fell off a train. The accident cost him his entire left arm up to the shoulder. Because Science studies required two hands for experiments, Ramesh transferred from Science to the Arts and to Mathematics.

Ramesh Gangolli went on to obtain his B.A. in Mathematics at the University of Bombay, ranking first in the university in both his intermediate and bachelor's examinations. He earned his second bachelor's degree in Mathematics at Cambridge, and his Ph.D. at MIT. After taking his doctoral degree at MIT, he taught there for a year before joining the faculty of the University of Washington, Seattle in 1962. Since then, he has been a faculty member in the Department of Mathematics, serving as Chair between 1981-84 and 1991-93. He has been active in mathematical research as well as in education during most of his career, and has served on numerous advisory committees of the National Science Foundation, the National Academy of Sciences and the National Research Council, as a Trustee of the American Mathematical Society, Chair of the AMS's Committee on Education, and in other similar roles.

Ramesh passed SSC (equivalent of high school) public examination ranking third in Bombay, and won the first prize for Sanskrit. He was enrolled in the Elphinstone College.

Ramesh had also taken Actuarial exams and had become an Associate of the Institute of Actuaries of London (U.K.). The New India Insurance Company tried to recruit him. The young man was torn: should he accept the scholarship or the job? "I did not have a clear notion of my career options. Upmost in my mind was the question, 'what skill can I acquire that will get me a job?'" Ramesh chose the scholarship, demonstrating early on his understanding of his own priorities.

Ramesh was at Cambridge from 1955 through 1957. Though not too happy in England, he was fortunate to make some good friends, among them, Amartya Sen (now a Nobel Laureate in Economics). "For the first time in my life, I found studies difficult and had to work very hard." Not deterred by difficulty, he managed to place high in his Mathematical Tripos (often nicknamed "Wrangler" because of its difficulty.)

Back in India, he spent "one year feeling rather disoriented." That same year, he married Shanta (Nirmala) Mankikar. He had just accepted an offer of a "cushy" job from Tata, when his Cambridge friend Amartya introduced him to the well-known statistician Mahalanobis of Nehru's Planning Commission. Mahalanobis talked him out of working for Tata, saying: "You can always get a corporate job. This is the time you should try your hand at research." To the great consternation of his family, Ramesh once again turned down a lucrative job in favour of what really suited his temperament. He served as a research fellow at the Statistical Institute in Calcutta for about a year.

Eight months later, MIT accepted him as a graduate student. The newly married couple borrowed money for the passage to the United States and ended up in Boston, Mass, living on a salary of \$200 a month (\$167.80 after deductions!) out of which \$80 went for rent. Shanta remembers deliberating on whether to take the subway or not. During this difficult period, Shanta supplemented their income by babysitting.

In his first quarter at MIT, Ramesh was appointed as a teaching assistant to John Nash, the brilliant mathematician depicted in the film, "A Beautiful Mind." Ramesh remembers the inventor of the game theory as a sad, confused figure whose mind tragically disintegrated before the quarter ended. Sylvia Nasar, the author of the book, "A Beautiful Mind," interviewed Ramesh about this crucial period in Nash's life.

Shanta is a warm and spirited person. For many years she was a special education teacher for the hearing impaired in the Seattle School District.

One of Ramesh's great passions is Hindustani

classical music, but it is a passion that developed in his mid 40s. "I always enjoyed listening to music but had never cultivated it. We didn't have a record player but we had a radio. Music was all around us." He remembers attending a few concerts with a family friend but was too preoccupied by studies to take it up seriously. In the 1970s, when he heard rudra veena maestro Z. M. Dagar and singer Jitendra Abhishekh perform in Seattle, he realized that there was "something in the music that touched my sensibilities."

In fact, Ramesh got thoroughly hooked on Hindustani classical music. He began studying *khayal* with his friend Sharad Gadre. Soon he was singing side by side with his guru and had developed a fine understanding of the niceties of *khayal*. Later, he also received instruction from Agra Gharana stalwarts Yunus Hussain Khan, K. G. Ginde, and Dinkar Kaikini. In 1981 Ramesh was instrumental in founding Ragamala of Seattle. The organization has acquired a global reputation for presenting concerts by leading and rising musicians and dancers, and is noted for its gracious treatment of artists, as well as for the musical knowledge of its founder, "Ramesh-ji." Ramesh's "ragagnyana" has attracted leading musicians such as Zakir Hussain, Sujaat Khan, Dinkar Kaikini, K. G. Ginde, Lalith Rao and Onkar Gulvadi to Seattle. His repertoire of compositions has made him a great resource for both amateur and professional musicians both here and in India.

Since 1989, Ramesh has been teaching courses in Indian music as an Adjunct Professor of Music at the University of Washington. His enthusiasm for Hindustani music has captivated many students. These include non-Indians, with whom he can speak with understanding of Western classical music.

Currently, Ramesh is writing a synoptic account on Bhatkhande's contribution to musical scholarship, the *Hindustani Sangeet Paddhati*, a Socratic dialogue about music theory. Bhatkhande had the "annoying habit" of quoting from Sanskrit texts without crediting sources or translating. Ramesh's knowledge of Sanskrit has come in handy when translating these verses. The project is still in the works. Ramesh also enjoys composing occasional "cheeza" (songs) in Braja Bhasha in different ragas.

For someone who has rubbed shoulders with the best of mathematicians, Ramesh still finds teaching elementary math exciting. For the last five years, he has served as Principal Investigator of two (NSF supported) projects involving K-12 mathematics teachers from six school districts in the Seattle Metropolitan Area. One of these is a Local Systemic Change project involving middle and high school teachers, the other being an Elementary school project that focuses on leadership as well as systemic issues. Ramesh's eyes light up when he describes the creative ways children arrive at answers to math problems.

(Excerpts from the article published in the Souvenir - Konkani Sammelan - 2004)

The Kanara Saraswat Association

Deepavali (Nov. 2004) Kanara Saraswat

Competition in Cover Design

The Special Deepavali Issue of the Kanara Saraswat will be dedicated to the Defence Personnel. We have amongst us many Chitrapur Saraswat Artists all over India and abroad. We invite them to participate in designing the Cover (In colour).

The Topic should be on Defence. The size will be 18X17 cms. It is a golden opportunity for the best artist.

The opinion of two artist judges will be taken and the best selected design will be awarded a prize - Two nights' stay at KSA's Holiday Home, Nashik. Those who would like to participate are requested to send their Cover Design to:

The Managing Editor, Kanara Saraswat before 10th of October 2004.

ARTICLES:

The Special Diwali Issue will be dedicated to the Defence Personnel. The issue will be brought out by the end of Oct. 2004 and will include articles on Defence Personnel, anecdotes related to them. There will be articles on other topics too.



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Konkanis in North America: Identity and Assimilation

by Ramesh Gangolli
Keynote Speech (Part I)

At the Konkani Sammelan, July 2-4, 2004; at Los Angeles

Author's note: This article is based on a draft of the keynote speech, with certain additions. The additions were made by me ex tempore, and I have included them as recollected after the speech. Similarly the rest of the speech was made ex tempore loosely following this draft. Therefore, this article does not reflect verbatim what was said in the Keynote speech. However, most of the speech conformed to this draft, and I am posting it to the website at the urging of the large numbers of persons in the audience who expressed a strong desire to have access to the full text.

Preamble

उपस्थित सर्वजनांक, समवयस्कांक, तशीची सात्रांक, सर्वांक प्रथम नम्र नमस्कार. तदनंतर या सम्मेलनाच्या कार्यकारी मंडळीक आनी असंख्य स्वयंसेवकांक मंगेल धन्यवाद तथा अभिनंदन व्यक्त कोर्नु हांव मंगेल भाषण सुरु करतां.

I want to begin by thanking the organizing committee of Sammelan04 for inviting me to be the Keynote Speaker for the Sammelan. I will explain in a minute why I am switching to English after a promising beginning in Konkani.

At the outset, I had to settle the issue of the language that I should use for my talk. I know that the Konkani convention held in Goa carried out a considerable part of its proceedings in Konkani. I seriously entertained trying to meet the challenge of writing out this talk in Konkani. I found myself using so many Sanskrit-based words (much as one encounters in literary Marathi writing for example) that I began to have doubts whether the speech would make sense to most of the audience, and especially those in the audience who are second generation Indian-Americans. For example:

When I started to prepare this talk, I made a list of things I should **not** do. I tried to say something like the following:

Do not give advice (wise or otherwise). Many a keynote speaker is tempted to give a pontifical speech; but after giving such a speech, such a speaker realizes that nobody took in that speech and so it was useless, leading that speaker only to regret having given such a speech.

The latter part of this came out in Konkani as follows:

उपदेश दिवच्या वचूं नावका. कित्याक अग्रवक्त्यांक ब्रह्मवाक्यशें भाषण कोरची प्रेरणा जाता. तशींची तागेलें ब्रह्मवाक्ययुक्त भाषण कोर्नु जाच्याफुडे तें भाषण कोण्णाकय कळनी आणि त्यानिमिती तें निरर्थक जाल्लें अशी जाणीव जाचु असल्या वक्त्यांक किंवहुना पश्चातापुई जाता.

I hope you can see why this type of Konkani speech would elude a good part of our young. Besides, I also realized that many of those who are present today will have come with spouses who are not necessarily Konkani speaking. The rules of hospitality therefore ordain that at least the Keynote address should be intelligible to everyone in the audience. There was also the consideration that potentially, there would be at least four different types of Konkani spoken by members of this audience. My choice would naturally be the tongue that was used next to my cradle, and its idiom would be different from the other varieties. I hope that you will accede to my reasoning.

I feel honored because of the flattering implication that one has something interesting to say. On the other hand, after the first flush of pleasure wears away, one feels great apprehension upon realizing that one may not fulfill the expectations from which such an invitation must come.

As for my apprehension, let me tell you how I became comfortable with it. I went to the web pages of past Konkani conventions, (using the links so conveniently provided by Prasad and Deepa Upasani on the web page of the current Sammelan) hoping to find a list of previous Keynote Speakers, and if possible the subjects of their speeches. Although I found a fair amount of interesting information about what went on at those Sammelans, I was not able to find easily who the Keynote Speakers were or what they spoke about.

I got this information for the 2002 convention (Shri K. V. Kamath was the speaker, and he talked about developing e-commerce in India, and the role played by his bank, ICICI, in it) through a review of it, and also determined that the Keynote Speaker for the 1996 convention (which kicked off this series) was Shri B. V. Shenoy, but I could not find any remarks about what he said. I must confess that I was much encouraged by this circumstance, because it relieved me of

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my apprehension. Keynote speeches at a convention are (rightly) meant to be listened to politely and quickly set aside so that we can move to the really fun stuff like food, conversation, music, skits and so on. It was reassuring to know that any gaffs I make today, however memorable, will soon be forgotten!

When I arrived here, I realized with even greater force that I was going to face a very friendly audience of fellow Konkanis. As I walked in yesterday into the hotel, one of the first things I heard was a sentence like "Yes, we are related; my brother-in-law's cousin is married to her cousin" or words to that effect. I knew immediately that I was in Konkani land! This only bears out a "theorem" that I often cite as my contribution to mathematical genealogy: "Two Konks are either related or they have a common relative". I have not found many counter examples to this beautiful truth! My comfort level increased further yesterday when I saw that as a part of the opening ceremonies there was a song and dance item based on food; I believe that "daali toy" was one of the heroic figures being lauded in the song. I now definitely knew that I was in my own community. Which other community would dream of composing and performing a miniballet in honour of such deliciously plain food?

As I began to prepare this talk, I had to ask myself: what can I say that will be interesting and not immediately regarded as trite?

There were a number of things I promised myself I would not do:

I would not do an uplifting motivational speech;

The rousing oratory and the ability to look only at the half-full glass, qualities so necessary for such a speech seem to be associated with genes unknown to my DNA.

I would not try a scholarly talk;

Although much in character, it would definitely be a soporific beginning to an otherwise upbeat day.

A humorous talk?

I found the idea hilarious; I could imagine the audience rolling in the aisles. But I soon realized that they would not be rolling with laughter!

Finally, I realized that I was approaching this incorrectly. The idea had to be that the speech is not an address from me to an audience, but a vehicle for sharing experiences and of stimulating a dialogue, a *samvada*, that would be relevant to the lives of most of us gathered here. In this connection I was encouraged by the fact that perhaps I could offer a somewhat unique perspective, based on the length of residence in the U. S. My wife Shanta and I came to the

US as students in 1958, 46 years ago, just after we were married. I am sure that our experiences differ vastly from the experience of recent Konkani immigrants. However, some of the issues we faced, and some of our responses to them could be of some interest to those among our community that now face the same issues, albeit in a changed context. Here then was one facet of our lives that could interest more recent arrivals, and might have given rise to perspectives that I could share with you.

What is this talk about?

A mathematician friend of mine, who is known for his clear expositions of complicated scientific material, said once while writing about the art of exposition that "the author should take the reader into his/her confidence". Exposition should not proceed like a mystery novel, where the main subject is revealed only at the end. So right at the outset, I had better tell you the theme of my talk: I would like to make some observations about the issue of identity for Konkanis in North America, and especially for Konkani youth in North America. Naturally, I will also offer some observations about what I feel we as expatriates can do with respect to the issues of identity that we and our youth face.

Identity

It is inevitable that immigrant communities are concerned (even preoccupied) with identity. We all continually seek clarity about our antecedent culture, both in regard to the inspirations and strengths it provides, and also the barriers it can erect in the way of adaptation, so that we can lead a well adjusted and richer life of interaction with the world. We seek it many ways: we find books by Indian authors interesting; we relate to travel experiences to India and cognate cultures; we are on the lookout for recipes that remind our palates of new ways of reviving old memories; we exchange jokes and proverbs that have a particularly Konkani aroma, including some that are ribald in a rustic way, what we call "zaanki" or "zankryo kanyo"; we reminisce about childhoods spent in surroundings that define a certain lifestyle. All these add a complexity of flavour to our lives, and help us understand and be comfortable with who we are, and thereby relate more comfortably with the world. Conventions such as ours today afford us an additional opportunity to improve our understanding of ourselves, by exchanging experiences, renewing connections, acquiring new perspectives, and just enjoying ourselves by immersing ourselves in a collection of attitudes and activities to whose nuances we can respond effortlessly.

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A Konkani identity.

What exactly are the components of what one might call a Konkani identity? Surely language is the prime ingredient. Let us first note that there are various types of Konkani speaking groups: the Goud Saraswats, Goans (whether Catholic or Hindu), the Shenvis (from Karwar, Sawantwadi and Ratnagiri on up to Mumbai), the Chitrapur Saraswats, and other Konkani speakers from Mangalore and Kerala (both the Catholic and Muslim communities). Notice that these groups speak very different brands of Konkani. Let me give two examples; I will read these out just to illustrate the differences in accent. I chose two varieties that are least represented today in our audience, just to heighten my point.

The first quote is from an article by P. L. Deshpande, the well known Marathi writer whose grew up speaking Konkani.

कारवार

पु. ल. देशपांडे

ल्हान आसतांना शाळेक मे म्हैऱ्याची रजा पडताली. आनी मागीर क्लासांतली पोरां एकमेकांक विचारतालीं "तूं रजेंत खें वतलो? तूं खें वतलो? तूं खें वतलो?" मागीर कोण म्हणालो हांव वेंगुल्यार वतलों कोण सांगली कोण कोल्हापुर. हांव मात्र गप्प बसतालों. कित्या काय म्हळ्यार मगेलो जन्म जालो मुंबयत. घर मुंबयत. गांव म्हण्टात तें माका नाशिल्लेंच. माका खूप वायट दिसतालें. मगळ्या पोंगंक गावां आशिल्लीं. मागीर हांवमुध्दां सांगतालों "हांव आमगेल्या गावांक वतलों". तांतल्या तांतुन कोण तरी कुचिंद्री उरतालोच. तो विचारतालो "तुगेलें गांव खंयें रे देशपांड्या?"

The second pair of quotes is from a speech made by the Goan poet Dr Manoharrai Sardessai at the last Goan Konkani convention held in Goa: (note that the Roman script is being used for Konkani)

"Zo mhunis Goeam bhair asta tache mon Goem asta. Don vholddear legit paim dhuron ami buddlenam, kiteak amchea purvosani sangodd kelo."

झों म्हनीस गोयां भाय आस्ता ताचें मोन गोयें आसता. दोन व्होड्यार लेगित पायीं धोरून आमी बुडले नां. कित्याक आमच्या पुर्वोसानी सांगोडू केल्लो.

(The man who is outside Goa (still) has his mind in Goa. Straddling two boats, we have not drowned; because our ancestors made a pact.)

(The two boats refer here to the two slightly different Konkani tongues spoken in Goa.)

"Tumchi avois bhas nam tor tumkam patticho konddo nam...gaindolla bhaxen.

तुम्ची आवयो भास नां तोर तुम्कां पाट्टीचो कोण्डो ना ... गांयडाळ्ळा भाशेन

(If you don't have your mother tongue, you are

without a backbone, like an earthworm.)

In spite of these real differences in the brands of Konkani they speak, we all acknowledge that they are understandable in the main as subvarieties of the same tongue.

My first point is that

The idea of a cohesive group identity Konkani identity based on a linguistic amalgamation of all Konkani speaking groups is barely incipient at present, and many issues (such as a choice of script, and a choice of type to be regarded as standard) need to be resolved before a "pan-Konkani" linguistic identity can emerge.

I shall argue this point first without considering the special rubrics that apply to an expatriate community such as ours. The argument will hold with even greater force for Konkani in America, but, as we shall see, there will be other issues to be considered in this context.

It is instructive to look at recent history in thinking about this question. Identity was dominated by national considerations during the pre-independence era, with linguistic considerations playing an important but secondary role. The secondary groupings were for the most part broad regional ones: Bengalis, Gujaratis, Maharashtrians, Tamils etc. This view changed after India achieved independence, and the States of the Indian Union were subsequently reorganized along linguistic lines. The existing cultural identities inherent in each linguistic group began to be asserted as part of a national assertion of culture.

(To be continued)

Shri Chitrapur Math, Shirali

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Update on PROJECT AMCHIS

-Mahesh D.Kalyanpur, Co-ordinator Project AMCHIS

KSA has undertaken an ambitious 'PROJECT AMCHIS' which encompasses various aspects of Chitrapur Saraswats.

The sub-projects that would be undertaken under this project are:

1. Documenting achievements of Chitrapur Saraswats

Present status:- Our President Lt. Gen. Prakash Gokarn, has taken the lead to document the achievements of Amchis in Defence. The research work will be released in the form of a Souvenir at the 1st Defence Convention which will be held in Pune on 3rd October 2004.

The contribution of the legendary DAmel (Amembal Dinkar Rao) will be highlighted at the programme that has been organised by KSA on 25th September 2004. Details of the programme appear elsewhere in this issue.

Future plans:

- Documenting the customs and traditions of the community to preserve them for succeeding generations.
- Preservation & restoration of available records.
- Documentation of the changing world of Chitrapur Saraswats by undertaking a detailed survey of the Chitrapur Saraswats through a questionnaire designed to study the different facets of the community.
- Documentation of the activities at various centres of the community.
- Documenting the history of each of the Family temples of the Chitrapur Saraswats.
- Document our unique collection of recipes to ensure the survival of the Chitrapur Saraswat cuisine.
- Video documentation to emphasise the unique identity of the community by recording aspects which are unique in the case of Chitrapur Saraswats like Gokulashtami Bhajans at different centres, etc.
- Video interview of senior citizens of the community as also prominent members to document their memories/ important events in the history of the community. Members interested in volunteering for the Documentation project are requested to contact the Shri Mahesh D.Kalyanpur, Co-ordinator, Project AMCHIS.

2. Konkani language propagation

- Setting up an exclusive library of Konkani books in any script and books written by Chitrapur Saraswats.

Present status:- Shri Vithal Nadkarni has volunteered to setup the library. We are grateful to Canara Union, Shri Ramu Kodange and Shri Sadanand Bhatkal for donating books in their possession for the library. We request other members who have such books to contact Shri Vithal Nadkarni.

- Setting up of an Audio Visual library with recordings of Konkani dramas, Songs, Lullabies, Spoonerisms, etc.

Present status:- Activity would commence shortly. We have plans to conduct 'Natyavachan' sessions of dramas and record them in audio format. Members interested in volunteering in this activity are requested to contact the Shri Mahesh D.Kalyanpur, Co-ordinator, Project AMCHIS.

Meanwhile members who are in possession of Audio/ Video recordings of Konkani dramas are also requested to contact the Co-ordinator, Project AMCHIS or Manager, KSA.

3. Archival Library

- a. *Setting up of an Archival library of heritage material viz. Manuscripts, photographs, etc.*
- b. *Publishing a catalogue of paintings of prominent Chitrapur Saraswat painters.*
- c. *Publishing biography's of prominent Bhanap musicians and publishing a catalogue of their recordings.*
- d. *Kanara Saraswat magazines right from inception will be preserved in a digital format*

Present status:- Activity would commence shortly.

The lists of activities mentioned herein above are activities which would be undertaken in the first phase. The list is illustrative and not exhaustive. Projects would be added in due course. It is our desire that photographs/ video recordings of all major events in the history of Chitrapur Saraswats should form a part of the Archival library. Members who are in possession of any video recordings of events which in their opinion requires to be preserved for posterity are requested to send a copy of the recording to Shri Mahesh D.Kalyanpur, Co-ordinator for the project.

Similarly we request all institutions that organise such important events to record such events and send a copy of the recordings to KSA.

Shri Ramkishore Mankekar for donating a Panasonic VHS Handycam for the project. We are grateful to him for his kind gesture.

We request philanthropists to donate in cash or kind for the project.



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RAMA'S LEGACY

Ashok Balwalli, New Jersey, USA

This article is written for the sole purpose of appealing to our readers to interpret the epics for our benefit. Pujya Sachchidanada Swamiji of Ramanagar has sent me his approval and blessings, despite his illness. Let us chant, "Shri Rama Jai Rama Jai Jai Rama", for his recovery. After reading 'Rama's Legacy' (by Gurudas S Gulwadi of Virginia, USA) in July 2004 issue, I was inspired to write this for the KS.

Our Scriptures and Puranas were written and preserved for the benefit of future generations. They are meant to guide us on our Spiritual Journey; not an easy one. But *shraddha* and *bhakti* will be the wings that carry us upwards. The scriptures and Puranas will help us grow these wings.

In this modern age of so-called rationalistic thinking, it is possible to make several interpretations. But in order to cultivate *shraddha* and *bhakti*, we need to discard all unhealthy interpretations.

Let us take examples from the Ramayana. The story of Shri Rama of *Tretaayuga* has come down to us from the "Valmiki Ramayana"; Veda Vyasa's "Adhyatma Ramayana", and from *Kaliyuga's* "Tulasi Ramayana". Lord Shiva Himself is believed to be a devotee of this *avataar* of Lord Vishnu.

In "Valmiki Ramayana", Shri Rama is depicted as almost human whereas in "Adhyatma Ramayana", Shri Rama is depicted as *Purushottama*. The depiction of Shri Rama in the "Tulasi Ramayana" seems to be the best. It is well known that the "Tulasi Ramayana", which was kept below all other spiritual books, miraculously came up to rest on the very top.

Apparently, two actions of Lord Rama are considered unworthy by some so-called rational minds. They object to Shri Rama's rejection of Sita after being rescued from Ravana...and also His act of abandoning Her on the flimsy basis of a washerman's words.

Let us attempt to clear the clouds. Why? The "Adhyatma Ramayana" tells us that Shri Rama created Maya Sita whom Ravana abducted. Sp, Ravana could not have touched the pure Goddess Sita. In fact, the '*agni pareeksha*' was simply a procedure of replacing the Maya Sita with Shri Sita. Let us look at the other angles: 1) Would the Real Sita express a desire for the golden antelope despite Shri Rama's warning that it might be a trick? 2) Would She make the unworthy accusation when Laxman refused to respond to Shri Rama's cries for help? (3) Would she be foolish enough to cross the *Laxman rekha* to give *bhiksha* to Ravana in disguise?

Shri Sita, as you well know, was no ordinary woman. She could play with the *Shiva Dhanushya* which even

the powerful Ravana could not lift during the *Swayamvar*. Except for this part of the story, there is no depiction of her true strength except her appeal to Her Lord to be allowed to share His *vanavaas*. Her jumping into the flames and coming out unscathed is but a powerful drama to reinforce the strength of Her character. Depicted as a '*Maryadaa Purusha*', Rama makes the '*agni pareeksha*' an occasion for the world to recognize the purity of Sita and allows the ceremony to overshadow his own victory over Lanka.

Again, as a '*Maryadaa Purusha*', even after knowing that Ravana has abducted Shri Sita, Rama is reluctant to wage war against Ravana because Ravana is a *Shiva bhakta*. Only after Lord Shiva convinces Him that it is alright to kill Ravana, does Rama prepare for war. Another story goes that seeing Rama weep for Sita, Parvati is amazed that Mahadev can worship an individual who cries like an ordinary man. Mahadev then tells Parvati that She Herself should go and test Rama's worth. Goddess Parvati promptly descends from Mount Kailas disguised as Sita and meets Rama. Unperturbed, Rama greets her with great reverence saying, "Devi, how is Lord Mahadev? And why do you wander, thus, alone in the forest?"

The washerman's dramatic statement, "I am not Rama to take back my wife who left me," startles Shri Rama into ordering Laxman to abandon the pregnant Sita in the forest. Thus sacrificing the person closest to His heart, He proves His own ability - and Sita's - to withstand such a wrench. The ever-odient Laxman follows his Brother's order regardless of the pain it causes him. The story of the birth of Lav-Kush in the ashram of Sage Valmiki needs no repetition. Thereafter, as master archers, having trained under their great Mother, they are able to defeat the army of Shri Rama during the *Ashwamedha Yajna*. When, finally, their identity is revealed, Sita refuses to return with Rama. She begs Her Mother - Earth - to swallow Her up. Thus ends the tragedy...The entire episode underlines the greatness of Sita. She maintains Her dignity to the very end. It was Rama's intention, in this way, to show the world the greatness of Sita.

She is also glorified in the song that Lav-Kush sing

in the presence of Sri Rama before their true identity is known. In the song, the Sage Valmiki not only weaves the story of Sita but calls Her the Perfect Woman of Bhaarat: "*Bhaarat ki ek sannaar!*". Swami Vivekananda says, "Shri Rama could have been a man of any other country, but Shri Sita belongs to Bhaarat alone."

According to Shri Krishna, "Good actions are those which produce good results." If the actions of Shri Rama have done nothing but glorify the character of Sita, they should silence all critics of Rama. Victory to Shri Ramachandra and his consort!!

Sitapate Shri Ramachandra ki Jai!

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HOW I SAVED MY SISTER

Sanmesh M. Kalyanpur, Mumbai*

It was raining cats and dogs on Thursday, 29th July 2004. Due to the heavy rains our school authorities had curtailed the classes and allowed the students to go home early - at 1.30 p.m. - as there were predictions of heavy rains. I study in St. Xavier's High School which is situated near the Metro Cinema, Marine Lines, Mumbai.

Normally I catch the 85, 90 Ltd. or 92 Ltd. bus as these buses ply to Tardeo which is near my residence. While waiting for the bus, I heard some students mentioning that the primary class students whose parents had come to fetch them were being allowed to go home.

Immediately I thought of my dear sister, Sanjana. Sanjana is 7 years old and studies in the Primary Section (Standard III) of St. Columba High School, Nana Chowk. She travels by school bus and Nana Chowk is a low-lying area. I thought it would be better that I go to her school and escort her home. My parents go to work and there was no way for them to know that the children were allowed to leave early if their parents come to fetch them.

So I boarded Bus No.122 and got down at Nana Chowk at about 2.30 p.m. Sanjana's teacher allowed her to go home with me. It was raining very heavily as we came out of the school. The water level had already risen and it was waist-high for Sanjana and knee-deep for me.

As we were moving towards Nana Chowk, midway between the school gate and the Gowalia Tank Fire Brigade station entrance, Sanjana fell into an open storm water gutter which had been opened by someone to provide a way for the water level to recede. There were no boards put up on the site. Watching Sanjana fall into the gutter and seeing her drowning, I immediately rushed to her rescue and held her hand to pull her out. The heavy school bag on my shoulders was obstructing my movements. As a result, I lost my balance and fell down. By then, Sanjana had gripped my hand firmly and as I fell, she reached my shoulder for support and got hold of my head because of the fall. She started pushing my head down in order to stand up.

As a result of her pushing, I started slipping into the gutter. Luckily for me, I caught hold of a stone and could get a grip on it. Using this as a support, I pulled myself up. When I came out I could see that Sanjana had injured her hand which was bleeding and she had injuries on her feet as well. I had injuries on my hand and knee. Finally, we reached home at 3.15 p.m.

In December 2003, I had attended an Adventure Camp conducted by Explorers & Adventurers. I feel the training which I received there was very useful to me on this occasion as I was not frightened at all and could use the skills that I had learnt at the camp for saving the life of my dear sister. The training has made me bolder than before, so I strongly recommend all children to take this course.

Later, when I informed my parents and other relatives about the incident they were very proud of my courageous act.

* Sanmesh is 14 years of age.

~~~~~

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With a great fright

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All I wanted was

A loving atmosphere

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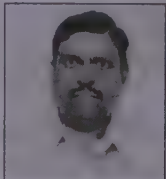


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## **"A UNIQUE DISTINCTION TO A PUNE BHANAP"**

**Shri (Kodikal) Sudhir Kumar Rao** has been recently awarded one of the prestigious Awards of the Government of Maharashtra. The name of the Award is 'Gunvant Kumar Kalyan Puraskar' which shall be awarded to him shortly at the auspicious hands of the Governor of Maharashtra at a special function organized for the purpose.



Shri. Sudhir Kumar Rao is perhaps the First Bhanap to achieve this prestigious award of the Labour Welfare Board, Mumbai. At present he is working in Union Bank of India, Industrial Finance Branch, Pune.

He has also been awarded the Silver Jubilee Award by his Bank on completion of 25 years of Meritorious Service. Following the principle "Learn while you earn" he did his LL.B. C.A.I.I.B and Post graduate Degree Course of "Personnel Management" from University of Pune in A-Plus Grade while working in the Union Bank of India.

Being a Labour Laws expert his next mission is to guide and counsel the employees of his own bank as well as the employees of other industries to build up a strong self confidence, high morale to increase their work efficiency, productivity and skills of production to elevate the glory and prosperity of their institutions.

We congratulate him for grand achievement and wish him every success in his Mission.

Shivdas P. Chandawarkar, Pune

## **Horlicks Whiz Kids 2004 contest**



**[PAVAN KAPNADAK is second from left... the smallest fellow in the group. ]**

Cheers and applause reverberated at the Chennai selections for the nationwide Horlicks Whiz Kids 2004 contest held in July. The children were full of life, both on and off stage, and displayed their talents with ease.

Pavan Kapnadak a student of 5<sup>th</sup> Standard, from Kola Saraswati Vaishnav School, Chennai, won a thunderous applause for his thought provoking answer that reverberated the auditorium and the minds of the spectators alike.

When asked what would he do, if he wakes up to be a girl tomorrow, little pavan replied ..

"I'll just relax. I don't see any difference between a boy and a girl. Bodies may be different, but the inner soul is the same."

It turned out to be a red letter day for him and others in the league, when they were chosen as the Dream Team at the end of the evening. These children would now make it to the nationwide contest to be held in September in Bangalore.

We wish them all success and three cheers for a great reply.....

## **A PROUD ANNOUNCEMENT**

It is an event of honour for Kanara Saraswat Association to have been invited by Nehru Centre, Worli, Mumbai to perform the KSA Kala Vibhag production Musical Konkani drama

### **"Kanchanmrig-Kanchanmrig"**

during their prestigious National Theatre Festival which will be held from 1<sup>st</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> September 2004.

The drama will be staged on 8<sup>th</sup> September 2004 at 2.30 pm. Admission is by Free Invitation Passes which will be available at the Nehru Centre's Auditorium from the last week of August and on 8<sup>th</sup> Sept. from 2.15 p.m. Those of you who were unable to watch this truly historical drama earlier have a great opportunity to enjoy the drama. All are cordially invited with their family and friends for this performance to cheer the artistes

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And sparkle out amongst the fern, to bicker down a valley”.*

— “THE BROOK” — By Alfred Lord Tennyson.



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A day at “DOCTOR’S FARM”, watching the serene flow of the river “Kundalika”, set against the backdrop of undulating thickly forested hills and listening to the Sounds of Silence, might as easily inspire the Poet, Philosopher, or Artist in you, as it did Tennyson. Watch Nature in all it’s Glory — It’s virtually, Poetry in Motion.

Would you believe it, if you were told, that a mere two and a half hour drive, would bring you to the world of wild pigs, rabbits and deer? A world inhabited by turtles, peacock, jungle fowl, ducks, hawks, egrets, hornbill and surprise of surprises — Migratory ducks from Central Asia?!! All of this thriving a mere 100 kms. from Mumbai in rustic, rural Maharashtra.

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# WHY ROUTINE GYNAEC CHECK-UPS ARE VITAL

*Dr. Kumudini Mangaokar*

Most women do not see a gynaecologist because they are not aware of things that can go wrong and consult only when they have nagging problems.

Many are afraid to go for routine check-ups for fear of discovering cancer and also cost is often a concern. There are several problems which can affect the female reproductive system and the woman should feel free to talk about them without feeling shy and clear her doubts.

Here are 10 reasons why regular gynaecological consultations are important:

**1) Menstrual problems :** Inflammation of the uterus or vaginal infection can cause menstruation cramps, back ache or an increase or decrease in menstrual frequency. Some suffer from heavy bleeding during menstrual periods or sometimes even in between or after sexual intercourse. This may be a symptom of cervical cancer. Too much bleeding leads to severe anaemia which causes excessive fatigue, palpitations and breathlessness on slight exertion. An ultrasonography of the pelvis can reveal tumours of uterus, cervix and ovaries. It can also show thickening of the lining of the uterus. Appropriate treatment with medication, hormones or surgery can settle the problem and restore health.

**2. Infections:** Many women suffer from pelvic pain and vaginal discharge due to gynaecological infections. These are amenable to treatment with antibiotics and other medicines. It is necessary to treat both the partners to prevent reinfection. If the symptoms are mild, they may remain untreated but then, infection can travel upward to the uterine tubes and cause infertility. Tuberculosis of the genital tract is an important cause of infertility.

**3) Sexual Dysfunction :** This can be due to a physical or a psychological cause which can be determined by the gynaecologist and solved. Sexual dysfunction can lead to marital discord and also can be a deterrent to conception.

**4. Infertility:** Regular check-ups can help determine the cause of infertility. Simple treatments can often overcome infertility. Sometimes, there may be more serious conditions for which the gynaecologist can offer solutions, like IUI\*, IVF\*\* etc.

**5) Cervical and uterine cancer:** Taking a Pap smear test at least once in three years helps detection of abnormal cells which are shed from cancer of uterus and cervix. It is a simple procedure of scraping of some mucus and cells from the mouth of the cervix-the neck of the womb. This test is recommended for all women from age 35 to 65 even if they do not have active sex life. It is the best way to discover cancer or precancerous growth, to catch it early and get treated. If discovered late, it can cost a woman her life.

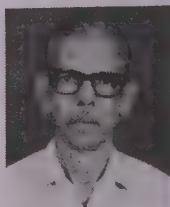
**6) Breast Pathologies:** A woman should learn to examine her own breasts, once a month. It is important that a gynaec does , breast examination once a year after a woman reaches age 35, especially if there have been cases of breast cancer in the family. Breast cancer is the most common cancer among urban women. The earlier the breast cancer is diagnosed, the better the chances of a cure. Best way to detect it is by X-ray of the breast, known as Mammography. After the age of 50, mammogram should be taken along with a breast sonography. This way, lumps which cannot be felt by hand can be seen.

**7) Family Planning:** There are many methods of contraception, but each woman has her own physical characteristics and preferences. A gynaec is the best adviser for adjusting the methods to individual needs and controlling the effects.

Though the contraceptive pill can be bought at the counter, it is best taken under supervision of a gynaec. It is also important for a young woman to visit a gynaec before marriage and before deciding to have a child. This can prevent many problems for the foetus as well.

**8) Pregnancy:** As soon as a woman misses her menstrual period she should see a G.P. or gynaec., for confirmation of pregnancy. She needs guidance regarding drugs to be avoided and those to be taken for normal development of the foetus. A regular monthly ante-natal check-up is essential even if the lady has no complaints. It is necessary to watch the growth of the foetus, weight gain and blood pressure monitoring of the mother. Lab tests and ultrasonography of the abdomen will be advised

Shri Subraya V. Khambadkone  
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from time to time to prevent complications.

If detected early they can be treated, in order to have a safe outcome of pregnancy.

**9) Sexually transmitted diseases :** Unprotected sex with several partners facilitates transmission of germs that cause infections, at times without symptoms at first, as in the case of AIDS, Syphilis, Gonorrhoea and Chlamydia. Gynaec examination followed by lab tests can tell if STD is present. Gonorrhoea and Chlamydia if not treated can cause infertility. AIDS and Syphilis can be transmitted to the foetus from the mother.

**10) Menopause & HRT:** Due to a decline in the levels of the female hormone, estrogen, menopause is associated with various physical and psychological disturbances such as hot flushes, depression and osteoporosis. Osteoporosis makes the bones porous and brittle which fracture easily. Hormone Replacement Therapy (HRT) can help women overcome these problems. Though there is fear of slight increase in incidence of breast and uterine cancer, when it is done under supervision of an experienced gynaec and for a short period, it is safe. Many natural foods contain phytoestrogens for instance soybean and chick-peas, yam and

beetroot. They can combat hormonal imbalance.

As the saying goes, 'forewarned is forearmed'. Going for a routine gynaec check can provide just that.

\* IUI or intrauterine insemination is a technique in which the doctor deposits the man's sperm directly into the woman's uterus.

\*\* IVF or in vitro (or "test tube") fertilization involves using drugs to stimulate the woman's ovaries to produce eggs, retrieving the eggs, fertilizing them with sperm, growing embryos (fertilized eggs) in the laboratory and implanting two or more embryos in the woman's uterus.

~~~~~

Addition

Happy Golden Wedding Anniversary

Please read as (of Aug. 2004 of KS on page 14)
Prabhakar and Pramila Bagde (**nee Koppikar**)

Meena, Ashwin, Neena, Anand, Anirudh, Anushka
Bagdes, Chandawarkars, Savurs, Bajekals, **Koppikars**
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Already, a small beginning has been made: Phase I of the project was inaugurated on **13th June, 2004**, Janmadin of Swami Parijnanashram III. At present, it's for only six persons. ***Seats filling up fast on strictly first-come first-served basis.***

HURRY! Those joining now will get a **special concession** in monthly charges: they will pay only Rs.3900 per month until March 2005. *This offer is open only up to September 30, 2004.*

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A TRIBUTE TO MATSYAGANDHA

Sudhir Shivram Rao (Ullal), Powai, Mumbai

As one boards the Matsyagandha Express bound for Mangalore from Mumbai's Kuria terminus, one walks into a miniature Dakshin Kannada. The pleasing aspect of listening to various versions of Konkani brings a smile on my face. The AC hardly seems to be working. I hear a smattering of Tulu and Kannada as well. The Malayali Muslim family seated opposite me includes four brats who collectively raise quite a din. The GSB lady by my side is not amused and gives a smirk which is not lost on the Malayali who makes pacific gestures at his army. Finally, amidst tears, hugs and adieus we depart.

The passengers give guarded looks at each other to begin with. The middle-aged couple is the first to offer the olive branch. They are bound for Udupi and tell me that this Express is their second home. A claim I now fully endorse. The man turns out to be an ophthalmologist and his wife, a homeopath. I think of my late mother, who was a homeopath too. The verdant scenery on the Konkan Railway route is breathtaking and has a soothing effect on me. I wonder if this is what it will be like when I am posted upstairs. I ruminate on the efforts put in by the thousands of labourers in building the numerous bridges and tunnels and say a silent grace to my late father, a railway construction engineer. Later, he retired as an additional member of the Railway Board.

It happens like clockwork every time I travel by train. At sundown, as the lights come on, people shed their diffidence. The ice is broken. The GSB lady and the homeopath get into an animated discussion on their respective daughter's excesses, I learn that the first alluded to, is a company secretary in a transnational conglomerate in Mumbai. "Oh my", I say to myself, women have advanced exponentially. I glance at the sky. Two things never cease to amaze me - the heavenly stars above me and the moral law within me. The Malayali is reading the bestseller '*Tough Times Never Last But Tough People Do*'; my brother Pradeep had presented me with a copy of this very book which had given me succour during my watershed years.

I find the quality of the dinner served superlative. Catering has improved tremendously since privatization. In Goa, the train halts for three hours due to a landslide. The permanent way remains unaffected. An old lady feels uneasy. Three doctors on the train attend on her. A nurse from a Mangalore

hospital does her bit too. Thank God for allowing a Florence Nightingale to travel with us! A girl in her teens offers me her comic book to read. My body language seems to be working. Comic books and cartoon films carry social and eco-friendly messages these days which even tiny tots can comprehend. Bhatkal for breakfast, I think of the Chitrapur Math a few kilometers away and feel blessed. The train reaches Mangalore three hours late but no one is complaining as we are now part of a large extended family.

On the return Matsyagandha, I find myself sitting opposite a Mangalorian Catholic who owns and flies a trike (powered micro-light aircraft) and he jokingly tells me that although he was hoping to sit opposite a beautiful girl, nonetheless I was a bit of an alright. On learning that I am a Chitrapur Saraswat, he tells me that he knows Vivek Mundkur in Pune who is an expert on trikes. (Later, he took me to his farm at Shahapur near Nasik with the panoramic Tansa lake in the vicinity, where he has built a runway and a hanger). Hail Matsyagandha!

Alas, twelve days after my return the accident took place. I say a silent prayer for the dead, the injured and the affected. Bless them all.

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इन्दुभान्वोः युद्धम्

अनुराधा कर्पे, विरार

एषा बहु प्राचीन कथा। काचित् शरदपौर्णिमायाः रात्रिः आसीत्। सम्पूर्णं विश्वम् इन्दुप्रकाशेन अतनोत्। इन्दुप्रकाशः रजतवर्षा इव भासमानः अभवत्। खगाः इन्दुरश्मीनाम् शीतलतायाः सुखम् अनुभूय वृक्षेषु शान्तिपूर्वकं शयनम् अकुर्वन्। जनाः केशरयुक्तं दुग्धं पीत्वा इन्दोः अमृतवर्षायाः स्तुतिं कृतवन्तः। पशवः वने विहारं कृत्वा शीतलवातावरणस्य कृते इन्दवे धन्यवादाः ददति स्म। दिने श्रमं कृत्वा श्रान्ताः भूतवन्तः श्रमिकाः कर्षकाः च तृप्या इन्दुप्रकाशस्य आनन्दम् अनुभवन्ति स्म। तात्पर्यं सर्वं विश्वं इन्दोः गुणगायनं करोति स्म। इदं सर्वं इन्दुः अवलोकनं करोति स्म। तस्य हृदये गर्वः उद्भवति स्म। सः मनसि अचिन्तयत्, "मम इव तेजपुञ्जः सौन्दर्यवान् च एतस्मिन् संसारे कः अस्ति? अहं प्रकाशस्य सम्राट् खलु!" यावत् इन्दुः एतादृशं विचारम् अकरोत् भानुः दूरेण तम् अपश्यत्। इन्दोः गर्वेण उन्मत्तं मुखं दृष्ट्वा भानुः तम् अवदत्, "मित्रवर्य! किं चिन्तयसि?" इन्दुः प्रत्यवदत्, "मित्र! पश्य, सर्वं विश्वं मम प्रकाशस्य प्रशंसां करोति। यदा मम प्रकाशः नास्ति तदा किं भवति ईदृशम् अहं चिन्तयामि"। भानुः अवदत्, "प्रकाशं तु अहम् अपि ददामि। आवां संसारे उपयुक्तौ स्वः वा न वा?" इन्दुः गर्वेण अवदत्, "मम इव तेजोराशिः संसारे कः अस्ति? सुन्दरायै ललनायै "शशिमुखी" एवम् उपमां जनाः ददति। भानुः शान्तिपूर्वकम् अवदत्, "सौन्दर्यम् एव परिपूर्णं नास्ति एतस्मिन् संसारे। सौन्दर्यस्य अपेक्षया कार्यं श्रेष्ठतरम्" इन्दुः अवदत्, "अहं रजनीनाथः अस्मि। अहं किमपि कर्तुं शक्नोमि।" भानुः अवदत्, "त्वं रजनीनाथः खलु, परन्तु अहम् अपि दिनमणिः अस्मि। मया विना संसारः अन्धकारमयः मया विना कोऽपि कार्यं कर्तुं न शक्नोति। कृषकाः क्षेत्रं कर्तुं न शक्नुवन्ति। जनाः अन्नं न प्राप्नुवन्ति। अहं जीवनदाता अस्मि।" इन्दुः अवदत्, "किन्तु तव प्रकाशः प्रखरः। त्वं रश्मिभिः एतादृशं तपसि तत् केवलम् असहनीयम्। मम प्रकाशः शीतलः।" भानुः हसन् अवदत्, "मया कारणे वर्षा भवति, एतत् त्वं

विस्मरसि किम्? अहम् उदयमानः भूत्वा लोकेभ्यः पशुभ्यः खगेभ्यः च अलसं निवारयामि। अहम् आरोग्यदायकः अस्मि। अस्थः उपयुक्तं 'डी' जीवनसत्त्वम् अहं ददामि। इन्दुः अवदत्, "किन्तु कवयः मम विषये काव्यं कुर्वन्ति। मानवाः अपि मम समीपं वस्तुम् इच्छन्ति। तव समीपं कोऽपि गन्तुं न इच्छति।" एतादृशम् इन्दुभान्वोः वाग्युद्धं दीर्घसमयपर्यन्तम् अचलत्। अन्ते भानुः अवदत्, "आवयोः कः श्रेष्ठतरः?" इन्दुः अवदत्, "अथ किम्! अहम् एव श्रेष्ठतरः! अहं किमपि कर्तुं शक्नोमि।" भानुः अवदत्, "आवाम् ईदृशं कुर्वः। पश्य, तत्र तरोः अधः एकः बालकः शयानः अस्ति। त्वं तस्य युतकं हर्तुं शक्नोषि किम्?" इन्दुः अवदत्, "एतत् तु क्रीडा मम कृते।" इन्दु तस्य रश्मयः बालकस्य उपरि अक्षिपत्। हा हन्त! बालकस्य उपरि कः अपि परिणामः न अभवत्। इन्दुः बहुवारं प्रयत्नम् अकरोत्। बालकः अतिशीतलताम् अनुभूय कम्बलं परिधानम् अकरोत्। इन्दुः श्रान्तः भूत्वा अतिष्ठत्। भानुः आकाशे उदयमानः अभवत्। सः तस्य रश्मयः बालकस्य उपरि अक्षिपत्। बालकः प्रसन्नः भूत्वा तस्य नेत्रे उदघटयत्। सः सूर्यम् अवन्दत्। सूर्यः अधिकाः रश्मयः बालकस्य उपरि अक्षिपत्। बालकः रश्मीनाम् उष्णाताम् अनुभूय स्वस्य युतकम् अक्षिपत्। मुखं हस्तौ च प्रक्षाल्य सूर्यनमस्कारस्य व्यायामम् अकरोत्। भानुः इन्दुम् अपश्यत्। इन्दोः मुखं लज्जया कृष्णम् अभवत्। भानुः अवदत्, "मित्र! वृथा गर्वेण किं प्रयोजनम्? अहं स्वयंप्रकाशितः अस्मि। अहं मम प्रकाशं तुभ्यं ददामि, तेन कारणेन त्वं प्रकाशं दातुं शक्नोषि। तव प्रकाशः मन्दः खलु। तत् न पर्याप्तम्। जनाः दण्डदीपादि कृत्रिमप्रकाशेन एव व्यवहारं कर्तुं शक्नुवन्ति। मित्र! किमर्थं कलहेन? आवां प्रकाशं दत्वा लोकानां कल्याणं कुर्याव। इन्दुः लज्जितः भूत्वा अस्तमानः अभवत्। तदनन्तरं सः सूर्यस्य समीपं कदापि न आगतः। यदा सूर्यः अस्तमानः भवति, तदा एव इन्दुः आकाशे उदयमानः भवति।

पत्र लेखन (कागंद) इत्याक उणे जाल्यां ?

चित्रा शिराली (घारवाड)

प्रिती, माया, वात्सल्या, संबंध दवोर्चे एकमेव साधन म्हळ्यारी पत्र लेखन. पत्र लेखनांथांनू अनेक सुख दुःखा खबन्यो, आप्ताईष्टां बद्दल क्षेमसमाचार कळतालो. त्याकारणानें आपलेपण वाडताले.

पुराणकालांतल्या अनेक पौराणीक कथेंतू पत्रलेखनाबद्दल वर्णन आस्सती. शकुंतलेन दुष्यंतरायाक कमलपत्रांरी संदेश बरोनू पक्षाच्या गळ्याक बांदून पेटोयल्या कथा सगळ्यांकयी गोतू आस्स. त्या कमलपत्रांरीथांनू पत्रलेखन हो शब्द अस्तित्वांतू आयलो अशशी दिस्ता. कथा कांदबरीकारानीं शंगार रस, विरहाची पत्रं प्रियकर प्रेयासील्या सवांदा पत्रांथांनू देवाण घेवाण जाता. इतिहासांतू घोडेस्वार संदेश वाहक आस्ताले. अनेक संस्थानिक संदेश पेटोंवच्याकची पारवे (कबूतरं) पोसताले. दिस बदलू लागले, सुधारणां जाल्यो आनी ह्या पत्रवाटपा खातिर टपाल खाते आस्तित्वांतू आयले. ह्या टपालखात्यानें अखिल विश्वांतू एकमेकांगेले संदेश पावोंवचे काम कोनू जगा उद्धार जाल्लो. Postman म्हळ्यारी पत्रां वाटप घरोनघरीं वोचून कर्तो. कोंकणीनू आम्ही कागद म्हणताली. कागद आयल्यानं म्हणूय नीमगीताती. एकेकाळीं ह्या पोस्टमनाक पळैयनी जाल्यारी दिस वचनाशीलो. अनेक लोक तावळी कागद, पत्र हे शब्द वापरनाशी, आजी टपाल येनी वें अशशी निमगितालीं. त्या पोस्टमनानें येवचो ठराविक वेळू. खाकी बणां दोन, दोन बिल्लं लांबोचू घेवू, हांसतची टपाल अशशी वडून हातांतू दिवू वताले. तांगेले कौतुक केल्लेले तितलें उणेंची. सुधारणा इतली, जाल्या की पोस्टानें पत्रं येवची कम्मी जाल्यांती. दूरध्वनी महिमां, आतं पोस्टमनाच्या हातांतू बँकाची कागद, इन्शुरेन्सा पावत्यो, जाहिरात्यो पत्रकं, मासिकं, लग्नपत्रां, 'फोनबिल्ल आणि शुभेच्छा कार्ड', खैयीपूणी चुकुकन कागद, कोणै बरायी लयारी! ६०, ७० वर्सांमाक्षी कालावधी विंगडू आशिलो, परगंवांथांनू येला कागद बरोनू कळैयतालीं. घरांथांनू भायर सोर्नु वतना एक सांगची रिती आशशीली किं पावले किं कागद बरैयी, पोस्टकार्डांरी सुखरुप पाविल्याचें कळयताली. जाल्यारी तेंची कागद

येवच्याक, तडवू जाल्यारी सगळ्यांक काळजी दिस्ताली, नित्य त्या पोस्टमना वाट पोळोंवची तो येता म्हणू कोळणू धांवत वचून बागलांतू राबचे. प्रेयसीन, प्रियकराल्या कागदा वाट पोळोंवची. लग्न जायनाफूडें सुर्वेक कुळारा येनाफुडें तिन्ने, बामणाच्या कागदा वाट पोळोंवची घरांतुल्यानी तिक्का चेष्टा कोर्ची. तें प्रेमपत्र जाग्रतेन दवोर्चे. निष्पोन्नू परत परत तें कागद वाचचे हि पूरायी गमंती आस्तली. आत अन्तर्देशीयपत्र परदेशांतू Airogramme आशशी पत्रक आयल्यांति. गरजे वेळारी ताबडतोब वितरण कोर्ची व्यवस्था आशिली. श्री.कै. रविंद्रनाथ टागोराली Postman हि लघुकथा प्रसिद्ध आस्स. कै. श्रीमती कमलानेहरुनं जेलांथांनू कागदं बरैयील्या संग्रहा पुस्तक आस्स. स्कुलांतू पत्रलेखन कशी बरोवचें हें चेळडवाक शिकैयताति. कोणाक कशी बरोवका समाप्त करतनां कशी कोर्का, म्हालगडयांक नमस्कार सात्रांक आशीर्वाद इत्यादि. पुराणातिल वांगी पूराणांत तशी मार्क धेंवचेपूतें लेखन करताति. मन पटकन् भूतकाळांतू गेल्लं. हांव ८ वर्सांची आशीली. मगेली आत्रमा अहमदाबाद भईणी मेळूकु वचगेलेली. सांज जाल्ले कि मावका तिगेले उगडासू जानू रडतडची बस्ताली. त्याची वेळारी कागद बरोवच्याक शिकैयलें. आणि हांवे बरैयलें, प्रिय आत्रमा वग्वी यो, मावका तूं जायी. तुगेली चित्रा. आंतर्तातू पोस्टमनाली वाट पोळोंवची ना. सगळ्या ईमारती तळमजल्यारी, प्रत्येक घरां नंबर घालनू पेटयो केल्याति. Postman येवू त्याप्रमाणे कागदं घालनू वत्ता. शहरांतू Postman आस्सती. चेळडवांक शिक्षणाखातिरी घर सोडणू भायर गांवा वचकाजाता. त्यावेळारी घरच्यांगेली प्रीती, माये महत्व कळता. वचगेले तक्षण वैरचेवैरी कागदं येताली. आम्का आजीकयी तीं तक्षण काडणू वाचतनां दोळे भेर्नु येताति. कित्ले वग्वी ह्या पिल्लांक पावक फुटली, उडुक सुरु केल्लो हें ची कळणी. ती कागद म्हळ्यारी मगेलो खजिनो. चेळडवांनीं शिककूक भायर वचनाफुडें, सुर्वेक तांगेली मनःस्थिति घरचो उगडासू जानू मन लागना. अशी मनोव्यथा कोळोंवच्याक तावका कठीण जाता. नव्या मित्र मैत्रिणिलो

परिवार, सगळ्यो खबऱ्यो कळयिली कागद वाचतना दुःख जातले. जाल्यारी उपाय ना ताक्का. त्यावेळारी बरौयिली चेळडवागेली कागद म्हळ्यारी मगेलो जिवू. पोर्नि कागद वाचतनां धन्य दिस्ता. प्रति एक घरांतू दूरध्वनी यंत्र आस्सची. एकेकाळी चैनी वस्तू आणि श्रीमंताक मात्र साद्य जाताले. गरज म्हळ्यारी टपाल खात्यांतू वचून फोन कर्ताली, आणि संदेश पेटैयताली. आंत पावलो पावलीं S.T.D., I.S.D. चे घूड बसैयल्याति. आंतां लागीं भोंवत भोंवत उल्लोंवचो (Mobile Phone) सुरु जाल्लेल्यानें, कोण खैयी आस्स तें कळता आणि संपर्क ताबडतोब जाता.

दूरध्वनी सांगाणाक आंत साधणक म्हळ्यारी Computer ह्या यंत्र उत्कर्ष इतलो जाल्ला कि आजि कस्लें रांदप कोर्का हें ह्या Computer-तूं पोळोंवची पाळी येनी जाल्यारी पूरो. ह्या यंत्राचे, तांत्रिक शिक्षण घेतल्यारी जाल्लें, जन्मा सार्थक जाल्लें Male आणि Female मात्र आशिलें आंत सांगाताक, तिसरें e-mail. १० मिनीटांतू जगांतू खंच्यायी क्षणाक कोणाकयी संपर्क कोर्नू संदेश पेटोव्येद मात्र न्हैयी. जगांतू कस्लें चलता हेंवयी कळता. पत्रव्यवहार जालेलोची. वधूवर संशोधन, पाककृति, कस्लेंयी गोंला जाल्यारी त्याबद्दल माहिती, चित्रपट आणि वेळ घालोंवच्याक फत्यां खेळूयी खेळताती. ह्या संगणकारी माक्का एक संदेश

काल चक्र (चैतन्य)

चेडुं जन्मा आयल्या म्होणु खुशी घरांतु
होड कोर्नु बुदवंत कोर्चे विचार मनांतु
उमति पडता उदारि पडता कोर्चे कौतूक
दिमकुल्याने वता धोर्नु उब्रता सांगचे कोणाक
मस्ती कर्ता सांगिलें आयकना दोळे होडकोर्चे
बोरोंच्याक बैसना अभ्यास कर्ना गौजीचि घाल्चे
चेर्डपण गेल्ले बालपण गेल्ले यौवनांतु आयलें
कॉलेज म्होणु क्लासेस म्होणु घरा भायर जाल्ले
वर्तमान आशिशल भूतकाल जावनु भविष्याचि लागलि चिंता
मनांत आशिशलै सांगना म्होणु जीवा लागलि खंता
शिक्षण जाल्या डिग्री मेळ्या नौकरी लागल्या
बरी सोयरिक पोळोनु आत लग्ना विचारू केल्या
हेंचि जीवन सगळ्यांगेले अशीचि आस्ता
माक्षि मुखारि जाल्लेल तरी सारांशु होचि आस्ता

आयलो. Dear C, TNK U for O Sweets from DHK, V CU next week. त्या संगणकाक जन्मा हात लायनीशीलो. मगेल्या, चल्यानें वाचूक लायलें अक्षरं इंग्लीश, कस्लैयी अर्थ जायनी. कस्लें रे हें म्होणु निमगिले. तुक्का तुगेल्या मौत्रिणीनें संदेश पेटैयला Dear Chitra, Thank you for Pedhas from Dharwad, we see you next week. Radha. इल्लें बरोंवच्याक यायी त्रासू वे बा ? शिवकीली भास विसर्ना जाल्यारी पूरो. आशशी बरैयतलीं पत्रलेखना विचार थायी करिशनाती.

मगेली मैत्रिणी सात्रं गांवतू राबता. तिक्का दूरध्वनी नाक्का, Computer गोतना. प्रितीनें म्हैय्यांतू दोन कागद चुकनाशी बरैयता, त्या गांवातू बालवाडी चलैयता. चेळडवांगोय्ला खबऱ्यो बरैता. तिगले कागद येवचे भितरी, हांव वाचता, हांव वांचतां कोर्नू चेळडवं घेताति. सगळ्यांगलें वाचून जायनाफुढे मगेल्या वांट्याक येता. हांव तशीची तिक्का उत्तर घालतां. मनःपूर्वक एकमेकांबद्दल आशीली प्रिती, मायेच्यो भावना व्यक्त कोरुंक, थोडयो गंमती खबऱ्यो बरोंवच्याक पत्रलेखन जांवकाजची. जान यंत्रा अधिन जात आस्स Courier Service सुरु जाल्लेल्यानें (पोस्ट डब्बांतू) टपाल पेटोंवचे कमी जात आस्स.

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परस्परांतील कलात्मक सुसंवाद

सुनील उल्लाळ, ग्रांट रोड (५), मुंबई - ४०० ००७.

हे जीवन आनंदाने जगण्यासाठी ईश्वराने आपणास पाच ज्ञानेन्द्रिये दिलेली आहेत - डोळे, कान, नाक, जीभ व हात (स्पर्श). त्यांचा योग्य वेळी, योग्य स्थळी, योग्य प्रकारे, योग्य कारणाकरीता व योग्य प्रमाणांत वापर म्हणजेच आपल्याला सुसंवादाची पुर्ण जाणीव असणे.

सुसंवाद ही एक कला आहे जी परिश्रमाने विकसित करता येते. या जीवनांत प्रत्येक व्यक्तिला बालक, युवक व पालक अशा मुख्य भूमिका करण्याची संधी मिळते. जेव्हा आपल्या उच्चारांचा स्वर, त्यांची स्पष्टता व शारीरीक हावभाव समोरच्या व्यक्तिला आकर्षित करण्यास योग्य ठरतात, तेव्हा या भूमिका पूर्णपणे शोभतात.

मानवी जीवनांत सर्वात महत्वाचा घटक म्हणजे मानवी शरीर. हे शरीर सर्वात मोठे आश्चर्य व सर्व चमत्कारांचा राजा आहे. ह्या शरीरांत जोपर्यंत श्वासोच्छ्वास चालू आहे तोपर्यंत त्या शरीराला सुवास आहे. श्वास बंद, सर्वकाही बंद. क्षणातच हे आश्चर्य, चमत्कारांचा राजा फक्त मृत देह म्हणून ओळखला जातो. माझ्या अनुभवानुसार हा श्वास म्हणजेच सुसंवाद-आपले जीवन. सुसंवाद किंवा अर्धपूर्ण संवाद साधल्याने आपण समोरील व्यक्तीशी साऱ्या अर्थाने संबंध जुळवू शकतो. ह्या संबंधांत नव्वद टक्के घर्षण निर्माण होऊ शकते ते दोन महत्वाच्या कारणामुळे - उच्चारांचा स्वर (Tone of voice) व गैरस्पष्टीकरण (Misinterpretation). परंतु सुसंवाद साधल्याने कोणत्याही प्रकारचे घर्षण अथवा विरोध टाळू शकतात.

जीवन नावाच्या महान नाटकातील महत्वाचा अंक म्हणजे 'विवाह'. आणि यातील मुख्य कलाकार म्हणजे पती व पत्नी. विवाहबद्ध होण्यापूर्वी तरुण व तरुणी एकमेकांचा परिचय करून घेतात ती सवादांद्वारे. पुढे वैवाहीक जीवनात सुख, शांती आणि आनंद मिळविण्यासाठी संवादाचे सुखसंवादात रूपांतर होतो. बालकावस्थेत आपण परावलंबी (Dependent) असतो. युवावस्थेत आपण स्वावलंबी (Independent) बनतो. आणि विवाहबद्ध झाल्यावर परस्परावलंबित (Interdependent). हे शक्य होते

पती-पत्नीतील एकमेकांसाठी असलेल्या आदरामुळे, प्रेयामुळे.

सध्याच्या मुक्त, खाजगी व जागतिक चढाओढीच्या वातावरणात जर वैवाहिक जीवन निरोगी समाधानी व तृप्तपणे जगायचे असेल तर सुसंवादाची प्रत्येक क्षणाला अत्यंत गरज आहे. सुसंवादाची पहिली महत्वाची पायरी म्हणजे समोरील व्यक्तीचे विचार ध्यानपूर्वक व शंकांनिरसन करून ऐकणे. विवाहानंतरचे पहिले वर्ष पती-पत्नीसाठी अत्यंत महत्वाचे असते. हनीमूनला जाण्याचे मुख्य कारण म्हणजे एकमेकांजवळ जास्तीत जास्त वेळ राहून एकमेकांचे स्वभाव, आवडी-निवडी, सवयी व संस्कार अगदी निसंशय व खुल्या मनाने ओळखणे आणि आपल्या नवीन वैवाहिक जीवनात सदैव एकमेकांना समजून सांभाळून घेण्याचा मनःपूर्वक प्रयत्न करणे.

माझ्या अनुभवानुसार सुसंवादाचे पाच सोपे परंतु मौल्यवान घटक आहेत - स्मित (Smile), नजरेला नजर (Eye contact), उच्चारांचा स्वर (Tone of voice), दर्जेदार शब्दांचा वापर (Use of quality words), व शारीरीक हावभावावर नियंत्रण (Control on body language).

बहुतेक सर्वसामान्य लोकांचा जीवनासंबंधी अनुभव सुख जवा एवढे व दुःख पर्वता एवढे, किंवा नको नको संसार शिरावारी भार, असा असतो. त्याला कारण म्हणजे सुसंवादाची जाणीव कमी असणे हेच असू शकेल. आपले तन तन्दुरुस्त, मन मनमिळाऊ व धन 'धवल' राहील यात मुळीच शंका नसेल, आणि आपले जीवन सदैव निरोगी व यशस्वी राहील.

पती-पत्नीच्या एकमेकांच्या विचार, उच्चार व आचरामुळे वैवाहिक जीवनात गती निर्माण होते, त्यातून शुभ किंवा अशुभ नियती सुख दुःखांचे कारण ठरते. जसे विचार तशी कृती. थोडक्यांत, साकार झालेले विचार म्हणजेच माणसाचे जीवन. विचार मात्र आपल्याला आयुष्यभर साथ देतात. विचार म्हणजे आपल्या जीवनाला आकार देणारा एक कुशल शिल्पकार आहे.

पती-पत्नी जर एकमेकांजवळ अगदी घरगुती, सोप्या भाषेत व सहजमधुर वाणीत सातत्याने सुसंवाद करीत राहिले तर त्यांच्या वैवाहिक जीवनाला एक विलक्षण उंची व व्यापकता येऊन ते हौसेने जीवन जगू शकतील यात शंकाच नाही. एकमेकांवरील प्रेम व विश्वास अमर करण्यासाठी खालील सहा घटक अत्यंत महत्वाचे व विचारपूर्वक वापरण्यासाठी योग्य वाटतात. १) स्व प्रतिमा (Self esteem), २) प्रकटीकरण स्पष्टता (Clarity of expression), ३) ध्यानपूर्वक ऐकण्याची क्षमता (Ability to listen to others), ४) शिकण्याची इच्छावृत्ती (Willingness to learn), ५) दुसऱ्यांच्या भावनांची जाणीव-अनुभूती (Managing feelings of others), व ६) स्वतःबद्दल सांगण्याची तयारी (Self disclosure). या सर्व घटकांची नुसती जाणीव असणे म्हणजे सुद्धा आपले एक मोठे भाग्यच.

प्रत्येक पती-पत्नीच्या आयुष्यामध्ये वाद, संवाद व

सुसंवाद या तीन पायऱ्यांवरून संभाषणात्मक जवळीक वेळोवेळी चालू असते. आणि ह्याच पायऱ्या जाणिवपूर्वक न्याहाळल्या तर पहिल्या दोन पायऱ्यांमधील अंतर लवकरात लवकर कमी करून तिसऱ्या म्हणजेच सुसंवादाच्या पायरीवरील वास्तव्य सर्वांना वाढवता येईल. वैवाहिक जीवन नेहमी सफल व उत्साही ठेवायचे असेल तर प्रत्येक पती-पत्नीला जीवनातील विविध क्षेत्रांतून वाटचाल करताना चारचौघांशी निरनिराळ्या प्रतिबंधांची जाणीव ठेवून आपले सुसंवाद साधावयास हवेत.

आजच्या या संघर्षयुक्त जीवनामध्ये आपले आयुष्य आनंदाने व पूर्णपणे जगण्यासाठी प्रत्येक व्यक्तिला अत्यावश्यक असलेले व अवगत करून घेण्यासारखे मानव निर्मित तंत्र म्हणजे अर्थपूर्ण व आनंददायी संवाद म्हणजेच परस्परांतील कलात्मक सुसंवाद, यासाठी सातत्याने जरूर असते ती स्वतःच्या मन, बुद्धी व अहंकारावर पूर्ण नियंत्रणाची.

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संगमांतु वचुनु तांतु आम्मी सामानु वच्यां
संसार स्वर्गाक एक कोर्नु तांतु मेळनु वच्यां ॥१॥

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सकाळी सांजे काम कोर्नु बॅजारू जांवचे
म्होणु आम्मी कारांतु बैसुनु हॉलीडे वच्चें ॥१॥

Devon वच्यां Dover वच्यां एकई wales वच्यां।
Scotland एकई Ireland एकई cornwall वच्यां।

मुंबई एकई मद्रास एकई कलकत्ता वच्यां।
दिल्ली वच्चयां बेंगळूर वच्चयां एकई शिराले वच्यां ॥२॥

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रेवेंतु आम्मी चेईवांसांगाती कुस्ती मस्ती खेळ्या ॥३॥

सॅडवीच सूप खानु पीवुनु चौपाटीरी आड सोन्यां।
आयस्क्रीम आनी ऑटस लॉली पॉपकॉर्न खाव्यां।
वायगणां भात वालाची बेंदी पॉटभोर्नु जेव्यां।
बटाट्या सोंग टॉमेटों सासम आनी बजें खाव्यां ॥४॥

माननीय संपादक,

कॅनरा सारस्वताच्या जुलै (२००४) च्या अंकात पं. चिदानंद नगरकर यांच्यावरचा लेख वाचला. सुमारे एका वर्षापूर्वी 'CHIT-ANAND चिदानंद नगरकर' नावांचे एक पुस्तक किंग्सर्कल च्या फुटपाथवर 'ANY BOOK - Rs. 5/-' चा हस्तलिखित बोर्ड खुपसलेल्या ढिगा-यातून मी कुतुहलापोटी उचलले व विकत घेतले. अनेक दुर्मिळ फोटो, उत्तम कागद व छपाई आणि विचारवंतांचे हिंदी-इंग्रजी लेख असलेल्या या पुस्तकात पं. नगरकरांच्या बंदिशी (स्वतःच्या हस्ताक्षरात) संग्रहित केलेल्या आहेत.

लेखात म्हटल्याप्रमाणे पं. नगरकरांविषयी काहीच छापून आलेले नाही हे बरोबर नाही. हे १६० पानी पुस्तक पॉप्युलर बुक डेपो व भारतीय विद्याभवन यांच्या संयुक्त प्रयत्नांने आचार्य चिदानंद नगरकर स्मारक समितीच्या वतीने श्री. मनमोहन भटकळ यांनी १४-०९-१९९१ रोजी प्रथम प्रसिद्ध केलेले आहे.

मंगेश गुरुनाथ गोकर्ण
मलुंड (पश्चिम),
मुंबई - ४०० ०८०.

एक अविस्मरणीय 'गुरुवंदन'

मोहन कान्हेरे (४था मजला, शास्त्री हॉल, ग्रँट रोड, मुंबई)

गुरुपोर्णिमेची तिथी कुठल्याही गुरुकुलात फार महत्वाची मानली जाते. या दिवशीच्या गुरुवंदनेला विशेष महत्त्व असतं, या विशिष्ट दिवशी शक्य झालं नाही, तर सोयीची तारीख नक्की करून आवर्जून गुरुपोर्णिमा साजरी केली जाते. सर्वांच्याच दृष्टीने ही एक 'आनंदपर्वणी' असते.

दि. ३१ जुलै २००४ रोजी तालमकीवाडीतल्या श्रीमत् आनंदश्रम सभागृहात, कॅनरा सारस्वत ॲसोसिएशनच्या कला विभागाच्या वतीने अशीच एक अविस्मरणीय गुरुपोर्णिमा साजरी झाली. 'गुरुकुल' होतं पं. मुरली मनोहर शुक्ल व श्री नरेश कुमठा यांचं. या दोघांचा शिष्यवर्ग संख्येनी मोठा आहे. दोघाही कलावंतांकडे विद्या देण्याची 'दानत' आहे.

सक्श्री पं. हरिपद चौधरी, पं. लक्ष्मणप्रसाद जयपूरवाले व पं. पन्नालाल घोष यांची स्मृती जागवणं हा देखील त्या दिवशीच्या कार्यक्रमाचा उद्देश होता. 'जन्मभूमीचे श्री बटुक दिवानजी, या कार्यक्रमाला प्रमुख पाहुणे लाभले होते.

दीप प्रज्वलन झाल्यानंतर प्रार्थना-गीत सादर केलं गेलं. पुढे मग कवीष अगरवाल (भीमपलास), केतकी माविनकुर्वे (यमन), आभा अगरवाल, डॉ. तेजस्विनी कुलकर्णी व कामाक्षी बैदूर (बिहाग) यांनी गायन सादर केले. अर्जुन हेमाडी यांनी एकल तबला वादनात नेटकेपणानी त्रिताल वाजवला. निवेदिता तिजोरीवाला (तिलक कामोद), कल्याणी हेमाडी (केदार) नेहा वर्मा (यमन) संयुक्ता वाघ, पल्लवी मित्रा (बागेश्री) जेस्सीका महादेवन (कलावती) यांच्या गायनानी कार्यक्रमाची रंगत वाढत गेली. किरण वर्दम (देस) सौंदर्या अय्यर, (पुरीया धनाश्री) हेमा कोप्पीकर (पुरीया) यांनी सुमधुर बासरी वादन करून रसिक श्रोत्यांची पसंतीची टाळी मिळवली. भजन गायनात भावेश चौहान, रामजी गुप्ता, देवानंद मालवणकर यांनी आपल्या गायनाची चांगली छाप पाडली. त्या नंतर दशरथ राऊत (मिया मल्हार) आणि नरेंद्र कोथंबीकर (चंद्रकंस) यांच्या कसदार गायनाचा

श्रोत्यांना लाभ घडला. गुरुवर्य श्री नरेश कुमठा यांनी अभोगी सादर करून ही मैफल वेगळ्याच उंचीवर नेली. त्यांच्या वादनातली आर्तता, मधुरता, विलक्षण होती.

साथ संगतीची जबाबदारी सर्वश्री बाजीराव वरखडे (संवादिनी), शंतनू शुक्ल (तबला) व स्वतः पं. मुरली मनोहर शुक्ल (तबला + संवादिनी) यांनी उत्तमरित्या संभाळली. श्री. मोहन कान्हेरे यांनी कार्यक्रमाचं सूत्र संचालन केलं.

रसिक श्रोत्यांना दिर्घकाळ स्मरणात राहिल असा हा कार्यक्रम झाला.

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THE FINE ART OF SHOPPING

Indu Gersappe, Bangalore

Shopping – just one word, with a world of connotations. To some, it's a chore, a necessary evil; to others, it's a fun pastime, pure entertainment; while to yet others, it's a serious hobby. To me, it has always been an adventure.

I've always had a fascination for shopping. As a child, I would wander around in the bazaars, wide-eyed like Alice in Wonderland. Annual *melas* and weekly '*santhes*', with their jostling crowds, swirling colours, sounds and smells offered a veritable celebration of the senses. The rows of kiosks arrayed with colourful clothes, toys, glittering bangles and artificial jewellery; the tantalising aroma of sweets and pungent *mirchi bhajias* fried in sizzling oil offered an enchanting world.

Our neighbourhood grocer's shop was like Alibaba's cave, stacked with goodies. Annaji would dive inside the cavernous inner room and emerge with our requirements plus a pink lollipop for me. This breed of grocers is fast disappearing, replaced by departmental stores, where articles are all picked and packed in plastic packets. Though we had to pick stones from the dal, the old grocer knew your family history and took you home when you fell off the bike near his shop. The new food marts are oh-so-convenient, so glitzy - but soulless.

With shopping, comes the fine art of bargaining. I was initiated into this art by my Tulu maid, Neelu, whom I followed faithfully to the market. Unfazed by the fact that she knew only a smattering of Konkani, she would boldly sally forth - and with the planning of a General, she would enter the Margao market from the rear and launch a surprise attack on the hapless Dhondur, whose *gadi* held the freshest vegetables. Before his cronies could warn him with cries of, "*Tujhi sasu-mayi aylee re!*", Neelu would accost him. Dangling the vegetable with its stalk, she would proclaim loudly, "You call this a *ghardudhi*? And you have the audacity to charge three rupees for it?"

Not to be outdone, Dhondur would cry, "Amma, do you want to trample on my children's tummies? If you get it for less elsewhere, I will change my name."

Amidst strong expletives and wheedling, suitable prices would be fixed in a loud mixed lingo, with a circle of smirking, appreciative audience. The vegetables weighed, wrapped and placed in a basket, would be carried by a Gavdi woman, who followed us. After the final haggling, Dhondur

would drop the money in his tin box muttering, "You will send me begging with a coconut shell!"

Despite this intensive training, I never really mastered bargaining. In fact, I'm quite hopeless, for I usually end up paying more and buying less. The oranges which look so inviting in the basket, develop soggy undersides by the time I empty them on the kitchen counter!

I normally accompany my daughters who have inherited my craze for shopping. However, I am warned not to interrupt the bargaining. Dozens of shoes are removed from boxes, tried and rejected with no protests from the smiling roadside salesman. At last, the shoes are chosen. When he names a price, the girls scream in indignation and call it robbery and the shopkeeper throws up his hands at the ridiculous price that they quote, while I put in a timid, "*Asso go! Paapa tajid!*"

One glance from the girls and my words shrivel up. The price keeps bobbing up and down, with a show of walking away, a desperate calling back and the final price is fixed. The transaction over, I quickly turn to catch the young man actually smiling to himself, tucking the money into his pocket.

"The secret, dear Amma, is to offer exactly half of what he offers .. and then work towards a reasonable sum," says my daughter smugly. Anyway, a successful bargain means the satisfaction of both parties!

Modern shopping has undergone a quantum change. With shopping malls having mushroomed, small shops have been banished to by-lanes. Personally, I feel quite lost meandering through the glamorous decor, the plastic faces of sales-people and the staggering prices. Everything from jewellery to underwear is branded.

The consumer is King! Shopping malls turn into weekend hangouts for families, with full-day outings: funs stores, exhibitions, so-called sales, play-areas for kids, in-house Coffee Shoppes, cinema multiplexes and food *melas* - and shopping thrown in as a bargain. Another kind of *Jathra*. The shopping culture has changed with the advent of plastic money, double-incomes, e-shopping, tele-shopping and easy credit systems.

While bio-organic food, farm grown veggies, and flea-markets are coming back into fashion in the West, we have our own Jumble sales and *apna* hawkers!

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I AM TRULY SOCKED!

Jyothi Bharat Divgi

Our home is as lively as lively can get. Children - our five multiplied by their friends - the neighbourhood kids who have been raised with no clear idea about which is their real home-The one where they sleep in or this one, where they otherwise live and play cricket.

Then, we have our lizards. Right now, one is peeping at me from the corner behind the computer, wondering what I am up to! "No Lizzie, I don't need help! This is for the KS, I'll manage!" No, That was not meant for you, dear reader, sorry for the interruption! Our lizards are very helpful. (You can get in touch with me if you need one!)

We have our neighbourhood cats - Rukmini, Suryakanta, Pippi and her unnamed daughter and the fat, lazy 'bukka' and plus their friends (and at times their enemies.)

But what truly socks me is just that.....SOCKS! The home front is besieged with them. In fact, I may not even blink my eyes with surprise, if one of the socks opens the door for you when you ring the doorbell.

We have a wide variety. Woollens and Cottons, Brightly-Coloured and the plain-as-Jane - Black and White-Ones. And then there are the Little-Ones, the Big Ones, the Large-Ones, the Simply-Enormous-Ones (you should see brother-in-law Sanjay's feet to know what 'Enormous' means - His pair of socks can double up as a kid's cape!!!)

The Kiddo section, as always, takes the cake - five kids multiplied by two pairs of school socks, cool socks, PT socks, city socks, play socks, day socks, sleek socks, freak socks, frilly socks, silly socks, and what-have-you-socks!

In the adult world, there are the office socks and the jogging socks and the women-socks (pointedly pointing their toe's).....In short, to make a point, scores and scores and scores of socks !

Don't ask me how it reached there, but I can see a pair of socks grinning at me from under the Computer table. And what is it doing there?

In all likelihood, it's as curious as Lizzie the Lizard who, incidentally, is still making eyes at me!

The women-folk at home have very sensibly kept a huge drawer in each room exclusively for these socksy- folks. But, the socks here are not the ones to taking things lying down. The 'put-your-feet-up-and-relax' kind. No way! Most of them are definitely

inspired by Alexander the Great. They love to conquer places, and so, much to my dismay, I find them in all places.

Very adventurous too. They venture here and there. Under the cot. Over the cot. Under the table. This pair here, under the computer table is still peeping and grinning at me. *Shoo! Go away! Don't worry, the world will be reading about you at the end of this!* (Sorry, gentle reader, this pair of socks are adamant and insist on interfering!)

Don't ask me how, its truly dizzying, but, one day, I found one pair on the ceiling fan! Maybe our boys are responsible for that, but, knowing our adventurous socks, I have an uncanny feeling this pair made its own way up there. No doubt, inspired by Tensing and Norway.

The other day, Harsh, my youngest, was laughing away near the clothes stand. And what is so funny, young man? Asked I.

" Amma, its so funny, Just look at this... only one red sock and its looking so funny because its partner has run away!" He could not stop laughing. Truly, from the eyes of a six year old, it was absurdly funny!

Yes, our merry socks have this strange habit of getting into brawls. Then, when things go out of hand, (or should that be feet?) one gets into a huff and leaves. I am sure they have learnt this from the Katti-Butti system from the Kiddo world. Now katti. Now Batti.

When that happens, then we have just one sad sock all alone by himself.

The other may never turn up at all. Truly tragic.

But, despite the way we are socked, left, right and centre, there are often those hilarious occasions when there are socks, socks every where, but not one correct pair in sight! My daughter, who has to catch the bus at an unearthly hour before the sun comes up, will vouch for this!

DING-DONG ! Hey, that's the door bell? And who do you think walked in?

A new pair of socks!

Hello! Who is there behind this pair?

Yet another new pair!

I hear whoops of delight from the socks here! Welcome! Join the gang!

The saga continues.....

And well, I am truly and completely socked!



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OBITUARY



Meera Pandurang Kumtha, age 77 yrs, passed away on 23rd July 2004 at- Pune. Deeply mourned by Husband Pandurang Nagesh Kumtha,

Daughters & Sons - in -law, Kanchan - Satish Murdeshwar, Bharati - Vinod Mittal, Radhika -

Anirudha Vaidya, Son & Daughter-in-law Anand - Parul Kumtha, Grandchildren, Rahul, Supriya, Nikhil,

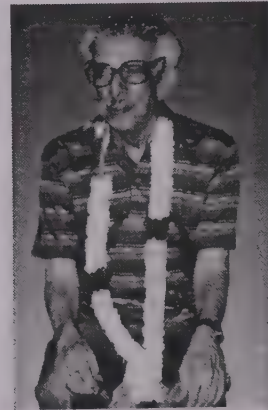
Aditya, Ravi, Ajay and Kabir, Grand daughters-in-law Rupal and Manisha, Grandson-in-law Prasanna &

Great Grandson Varad. Also mourned by Brothers & Sisters-in-law Sadanand-Nirmala, Ramdas- Laila &

Suresh-Shakul Bhatkal, Sister and Brother-in-law Rohini-Krishnanand Kalyanpur, Niece Vasanti Chittar,

Nephews & their wives Arun-Geeta, Subhash-Mahgala, Satish-Revati, Sunil- Heathen Kumta and their families.

Raghuvveer Devidas Kalyanpur 1920-2004



**Remembered by Family, Relatives
and Friends**

IN CONVERSATION

Umesh Kalbag, Andheri

I was face to face with Mark Barian, nay, Swami Tatadmanand.

When I had met him some years ago, he had just been initiated into *sanyaas*. He was managing Arsha Vidya Gurukulam then. But this Guru Purnima day, I was in the presence of Swami T. Mark Barian had metamorphosed into a Hindu monk: Swami Tatadmanand. In his words: "Mark Barian had perished in the Ganges."

I was intrigued when a devotee referred to him as Swami T. Had I heard the appellation correctly? "Yes," said Swamiji. "That is much easier for most to pronounce. It is easier on the tongue."

"Then why have you chosen the tongue-twisting name Tatadmanand?"

"I have not chosen it. My Guru, Swami Dayanand, selected it for me. He wanted a simple name that Westerners could pronounce."

I couldn't control my laughter and burst out. Swamiji, too, joined in. He, perhaps, understood my predicament. "Swami T. is much easier," he agreed.

Earlier in the evening, he had spoken of the importance of *guru parampara* to his visitors. It was a topic well chosen. It was Guru Purnima that day. And devotees had come to seek Guruji's blessings.

He talked of *guru parampara*, the lineage of teachers, beginning with the Lord Himself, having Shankara at its middle and extending to our own teacher. I was transported to the Mahasabha in Shirali when our own H.H. Sadyojat Shankarashram Swamiji, mandated that "*Dakshinasya samarambha.....*" be chanted before every meeting. The Creator is considered the source of all knowledge and the verse remembers the unbroken chain of teachers up to the present day. The linkage in its historical tradition utters the names of all teachers tracing it to the Creator Himself. It is an unbroken chain of teachers which we all utter with great pride in our hearts.

I felt elated when Swami T. blessed me with his hands on my head and chanted some *mantras* in chaste Sanskrit.

Lest this may surprise some readers, Swami T. speaks Sanskrit and Hindi. He had learnt these languages in Dayanand Saraswati's ashram in Rishikesh

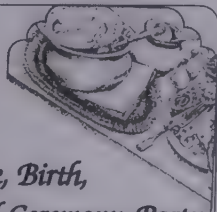
and also at the Arsha Vidya Gurukulam, the ashram that Swami Dayanand Saraswati started in the Pokono Mountains of Pennsylvania. Now, he heads the Arsha Bodha Centre, which he has started at Somerset in New Jersey where devotees come to listen to the American Swami sermonize on the *Vedas* in simple English.

It was here that I received his blessings on the Guru Purnima day!

Mark Barian is past, immersed into the torrential flow of the Ganges. An electrical engineer who made a living as a consultant with a home in the hills overlooking Santa Barbara in California, it was quite difficult for him to solve the dilemma he was facing before taking *sanyaas*. He talked it over with his parents and the female companion with whom he lived in "monogamous relationship for several years" and took the rigorous path of *sanyaas*.

Swami Tatadmanand, meaning the "one who is fulfilled", has never regretted this step in pursuit of God.

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A TALE WITH A TWIST

Nitin Ullal, Chennai

It was 9:30 p.m. and the bus was running late. 29B from downtown Periyar Nagar to Saidapet was overcrowded as usual. I preferred to take such buses - it saved me the day's ticket as most conductors were lethargic and didn't bother to move through the crowd to collect fares.

My clothes were pressed, shoes polished and perfume enough to stifle the stink from a garbage bin. The bus finally arrived carrying a sea of humanity.

I managed to squeeze myself through the rear entrance. The conductor, surprisingly, was not in his seat. He stood at the front entrance surrounded by a mass of hands holding out cash.

The heat was oppressive, the crowd overwhelming. Yet I managed to safely perch myself on the last step and hold on to the railing tightly enough to see me through this journey, alive.

To my right stood an elderly gentleman, sweating profusely. Dressed in a white shirt and *veshetti*, he clung on to a carry bag, which seemed like a second skin. The man (his name I will never know) began talking at length about the world being no longer a safe place for a retired civil servant.

He referred to the spate of daylight murders of housewives and elderly ladies in apartments across the city. Fellow passengers shook their heads sympathetically and spoke of personal experiences as victims of less insidious criminals - pickpockets and cheats.

As the bus veered through the notoriously pot-holed thoroughfares, the conversation turned to the slick methods employed by petty thieves.

The elderly gentleman spoke disparagingly of pickpockets and their vile ways of robbing old pensioners of their hard-earned money. A youngster narrated how a butter-fingered thief had once deftly cut open his nylon bag when he was going home with Rs. 20,000 from a bank. Luckily, he had kept the money in the inner pocket of his shirt and the culprit walked away with only worthless bills and an old notebook. Revealing this, he proceeded to thank half a dozen gods for saving his cash.

I observed the elderly gentleman's carry-bag bulging with cash. I told him to keep a wary eye on strangers, especially smooth-talking tricksters, who diverted the victim's attention while their accomplices snatched and fled with their valuables.

This started another round of discussion. A baby

cried, and the conductor yelled at an unruly youngster sitting down on a seat reserved for women.

I told the gentleman I worked in a private bank and gave him a visiting card. He was impressed, and asked me a series of questions on provident funds and declining interest rates on savings accounts. I answered as best as I could.

Apparently, he was planning to take a loan for his daughter's forthcoming marriage. I wished him well and reminded him to take care of his cash. By then, the conductor had come to collect the fares. I bought his ticket too, which impressed him further.

A few stops later, the rush had eased. As the bus neared the Pondy Bazaar stop, the old man affectionately bade me goodbye. As he was about to leave, he tripped and would have tumbled down the stairs, had I not held on to him. He blessed me before getting down.

I was to alight at the next stop. I smiled. My day's wages were earned. I hurriedly stuffed several visiting cards and the wad of notes in my pant pockets.

So, the SSLC education I had received did hold me in good stead. I had been in and out of jail several times where I had mastered the art of tripping people and slashing purses with blades. I hated doing this to an old man. But then, even pickpockets need to earn a living, right?

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AMIDST WILDLIFE IN SIKKIM — CLOSE ENCOUNTERS

Usha Ganguli, Lachungpa, Sikkim

To be wild is wonderful and to be in the wild is nothing short of exhilarating. A city child is a lost waif, an orphan separated from Mother Earth. I was a city child, growing like a potted plant in a second floor flat in the heart of downtown Bombay, on the city's busiest, noisiest road. It took 25 long years before I entered the wild wonderful world of SIKKIM.

Now I am in my element albeit with minor obstacles, and a wonderful job that's not too 'important' (to lesser mortals) but gives me the unique opportunity of traveling to the heart of unimaginably beautiful wilderness. Right here, at home, in Gangtok, we watch with bated breath the three tiny weasels rushing around our kitchen in the wooded surroundings of the Forest Colony. A pair of Blue Whistling Thrushes, commandeers our kitchen roof. A pair of Green-backed 'Chichinkoteys' nest in the quiet confines of our bedroom, while a silvery grey mole burrows into our backyard. A small family of Orange-bellied Squirrels regularly use their aerial pathway of closely planted 'Dhupi' trees nearby and leave their signatures on the 'Iskush' or squash vegetables in our garden.

Early mornings are full of bird song including that of our child Minla, as she watches her namesakes, a pair each of Red-tailed and Blue-winged Minlas from her own window. The younger one, Yuhina, is peevish because the Yellow-naped Yuhina on the cherry tree outside is just a dull brown bird.

Evenings are fraught with stories of how the big Cobra slithered away from the stairs or of the Himalayan Pit-Viper encountered while picking berries last Sunday, or the tiny harmless snakes that fall prey to the Whistling Thrushes. Nights are dark but not silent; along with the staccato calls of the Jungle Owlet are the melodious, fluty calls of the Scops Owl calling 'WHOOOO? WHOOOO?'

Outside Gangtok, my best place for 'wild-living' is the extreme north of Sikkim where the wild open often desolate cold-desert landscape is home to large animals like the Blue Sheep or Bharal, Nayan or Great Tibetan Sheep and Kiang or Tibetan Wild Ass.

In far off Lhonak Valley where I sat for idyllic

hours watching 'Chipis' or Himalayan Marmots scampering around me nibbling the bright yellow Potentilla flowers, a pair of Horned Larks feeding their chick out in the open where I could bend over and photograph it, the scores of Snow Finches that swooped down and vanished as they sat motionless until a careless movement startled them into a whirling cloud, the Brandt's Mountain Finches within touching distance but always out of reach, the fearless little Hume's Groundpeckers literally feeding out of my hands, the ever wary Mouse-Hares popping in and out of bouldery moraines and riverbanks. Unforgettable experiences.

Never will I forget the heart-stopping time when my yak decided to attempt a sudden jump down a sheer vertical drop of eight feet, into the torrential waters of the Naku Chu, regardless of the unsuspecting human on its back desperately clutching her diary in one hand and binoculars in the other.

Right at the base of Chorten Nyima La on the banks of an ethereally beautiful lake were four solitary Avocets with their sleek black-and white bodies and elegant blue legs. Where did these water birds come from? The valley of the Five Lakes or 'Tso Nga' was the home of some Redshanks and Ruddy Ducks with ten big chicks. We came upon them after we crossed a pass which had fresh Tibetan Wolf pug marks while a flock of Tibetan Snowcock or 'Khongmo' flew overhead and landed in the rocky scree of the nearby glacial lake.

Tso Lhamo Plateau is a photographer's delight with aquamarine lakes surrounded by snowy peaks and alpine steppe meadows where you find the Kiang galloping across the cold plains, the perfectly camouflaged Woolly Hares appearing-and-disappearing across the lunar-looking landscape or the giant Bearded Vulture lifting off from a deserted nomadic camp as you arrive.

A pair of Tibetan Foxes ran into view, one of them with a bird in its mouth. Or was it a Vole? A lone Tibetan Wolf limped away from us when we disturbed its stalking of the nearby Ruddy Shelduck chicks. They broke out into loud 'Quonks' and swam to safety.

A trip to Chulung Valley revealed 94 Nayan graz-

DESTINY

Dr. Sunanda Karnad, Dharwad

Is it possible to predict accurately what destiny has in store for any one? I would not like to venture into the domain of astrologers. Looking at the palm of the hand or studying the horoscope, many astrologers predict the past more or less accurately and may also picturise the present quite clearly. But I doubt, whether any one can be as sure and certain about the future as 'Destiny' herself.

On the sixth day after the child is born, Hindus believe that the destiny or '*Niyati*' of the child is fixed, almost invisibly written on child's forehead. What is going to be, no one can predict, though the parents wish their child to be the best in the world, to be healthy, happy, successful, rich and what not. As the child grows up, he too wants to be one of many exciting career men - a driver, a pilot, a policemen, a film star and so on. But as the years go by, there are changes in the child's plans, for Destiny has something else in store. She makes different moves as on a chess-board. Family background, parental support or otherwise, their financial condition and other circumstantial factors play their role in facilitating Destiny's designs.

Life would have been a many-splendored thing or a long painful existence if one had known what Destiny has in store, depending on what she offered. Ignorance about the future is therefore bliss! The future is uncertain, tomorrow is not known till it dawns. And therefore, one has to live the present, be prepared to face the future as it comes, work hard for a better future, be optimistic, hopeful and positive in one's thinking and just pray for 'His' blessings.

Many of us live our lives with such a positive perspective, doing our '*karma*', fulfilling our duties conscientiously. And yet, some face unforeseen misery, physical suffering and mental agony particularly during the twilight years of life. Why? A noble-minded professor, known to me for years for his generosity, kindness and ever-helpful nature gets a paralytic stroke and lies bedridden for years, unable to speak or express his feelings. He hangs his head down when friends come to meet him; he hates to be pitied, though helpless. Tears flow down his cheeks when kind words of a dear one move his heart. Friends, who would always wish him 'long life', now feel that Destiny should bring his end at the earliest.

One can cite any number of such cases of truly godly men and women who have never done any harm to others, who have never hurt anyone's feelings, but have always done good to others. Yet, in the sunset of their lives, their destiny brings prolonged illness and a painful existence making them pray for an early end. Whether or not one believes in rebirth to pay for one's past *karma*, such cases make us believe in the mystical Destiny, the invisible Destiny, which rules over the future and ultimate fate of us, helpless humans!

Obit Insertion

As we have been receiving articles in large number, considering the space constraint, we request members to book Obit write-ups confining to either Quarter or Half page only. Few exceptions will be made only in deserving cases for Full page coverage of eminent persons and others who have rendered acknowledged service to the nation and the community at large.

Write-ups of personal nature on close relations viz. from grandson about grandfather or about sisters, brothers etc. will not be accepted.

Reminder

EXAMINATION RESULTS

Students who have passed in various examinations from Mumbai, Pune, Bangalore and all other parts of the country are requested to send the details in the following Proforma to the Editor, Kanara Saraswat before 10th September 2004.

Name of the Student & Address	
Examination Passed	
Board/University/Institution	
Marks Obtained (Zerex Copy)	
Merit/Prize obtained with a short note	

Since the Convocation will be held on Sat. the 9th Oct. 2004, successful students are requested to send their results in the above proforma without fail to invite them for the convocation

ing peacefully, undisturbed by our presence. A most unusual congregation - so far, no one had reported seeing more than 15 of these magnificent wild sheep anywhere! They are like the Bighorn Sheep of America - only, bigger!

At Green Lake we came across the pugmarks of a Snow Leopard and Blue Sheep - a dramatic encounter, that! As we returned via the Zemu alley fighting our way through the dense Polygonum undergrowth, we expected a Himalayan Black Bear at every turn. There was enough bear-sign, but luckily no bear. Somebody found a single plant called *Pana. pseudo-ginseng*. There was speculation on the fate of the other plants. One single Tawny Coster butterfly sailed over the flowers. At this altitude, a species from the plains! Definitely, another new record for Sikkim.

For pheasants, we go to Kyongnosla Alpine Sanctuary in east Sikkim or to Dzongri, the entrance to Khangchendzonga National Park in west Sikkim. Run up to a flock of our State Bird, the Blood Pheasant or 'Chilimey', to scare it off, you'll have them re-assemble a few metres away! Or flush a

foursome of male Impeyan Monal, they burst out of the Rhododendron foliage and sail down the valley in different directions, their metallic plumage glinting in the snowy sunshine.

Do we really look at butterflies? The spectacular Golden Birdwings, the Bhutan Glories, the Kaiser-e-Hind, the little Silverstreaks, the Grass Jewels, the Chestnut Tigers, Has anyone noticed the wondrous pitcher-plant like *Aristolochias* with its funny-smelling, often bizarre flowers? Or the Moon Moth with its pale opalescent wings and long fairy tails, or the giant Atlas Moth? And the scores of metallic beetles, the grass-Green Rat Snake, the delicious high-altitude button mushrooms locally called 'Kar-sha' which can turn you off meat for ever...

One could just go on and on about this little green gem called Sikkim. But one has to come home. And so I did. To a fantastic flock of the rarely seen bright black-and yellow Spotted-billed Grosbeaks cracking cherry seeds in our front yard with their giant grey-blue beaks.

Surprises never cease.

Money Matters

Where money matters
nothing else matters.
Where Value matters
everything matters.

Money does have value
But Value does not need money
Money cannot buy everything
Value adds value to Life

Money divides people
Value brings them together
If Money & Value combine
The world could be heaven.

Sangeeta Amladi, Mumbai

My History Lies In My Hands

My history lies in my hands
The lines have a story to tell
My history lies in my hands
That reached out for help as I fell
They tell of many things
The joys and slumps that life brings
The very first time I dug in the dirt
The last time I asked you if it hurt
Many sunsets I walked with you along the shore
The last time I knew I'd see you no more
They tell of the softness I felt on my child's cheek
As I wiped the tears from an invisible grief
They tell of the stars I saw from the old hilltop
That I will continue to reach for till the day I drop

R Karnad-Jani Canada

Following books which were sent for review have been added to the KSA Library

- 1) **Science and Spirituality**
B. Krishnamurthy
- 2) **Education and Religion**
Dr. Smt. L.R. Kanchan
- 3) **Stories waiting to be told**
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HERE & THERE

Bandra: The following office bearers were elected for Local Sabha, at the AGM.

Shri D.V. Bhat - President; R.R. Hosangdi - Vice President; K.K. Rao - Hon. Secretary; M.M. Sirur - Hon. Treasurer; G.D. Kilpady - Jt. Hon. Secretary.

Since last five years "Bhajan with Deepa Namaskar and Aarati" programmes are held on all Thursdays in the Mini Hall of Chitrapur Society between 4.45 p.m. and 6.45 p.m.

On 21-4-04 a Special programme of "Devotional Songs by Smt. Sudha and Dr. Somashekar Naipally of Toronto (Canada) was arranged.

During May and June 04, three "Vimarsha" sessions were conducted by Dr. Adur Sitarata of Chennai.

Reported by K.K. Rao

Bangalore: During the month of June 2004 H.H. Shrimath Sadyojath Shankarashram Swamiji visited Bangalore and stayed at the Math for a period of 12 days from 13th to 22nd June 2004.

H.H. conducted Swadhyaya session for three days on Dakshina Murthy Stotra in the mornings. There were Pravachans by H.H. on 13th and 16th June and Ashirvachan on 21st June followed by Phalamantrakshat. H.H. left Bangalore on 22nd evening.

Chaturmas programme started on 2nd July with Gurupurnima. There was a talk by Sri Kumble Vittal Rao on Significance of Gurupurnima!

Smt Shiala Ammembal gave a pravachan on "Ashi Aska Samsaranthu" and Smt Hemalatha Kuber gave a talk on "Lord Rama"

At the Annual General body meeting of the Bangalore Local Sabha held on the 18th, 24 members were elected to serve on the committee for the year 2004-2005. The following office bearers were elected.

President : Shri Heble Nagesh. Vice President: Smt. Nandini. S. Karanje. Secretary: Shri Konaje Nagesh Rao Jt. Secretary : Shri Mahesh Kalbag. Treasurer : Shri Betrabet Vasanth Rao. Jt Treasurer : Shri Jayanth Gangoli.

Reported by Konaje Nagesh Rao

Happenings in Bangalore: Guru Maya Rao, internationally acclaimed Kathak dancer and Choreographer was honoured on the occasion of the observance of Guru Purnima by the cultural organization "Samskara Bharathi." The honours were done by Sri Muddu Mohan, Director of Kannada and Culture, Government of Karnataka who had come as the Chief Guest.

Smt Lalith J Rao, doyenne of Agra-Athrauli Gharana of Hindustani music gave a recital of two evening ragas to a highly appreciative audience at the Kala Vedithe of the MES College in Malleswaram. She was accompanied by Pt. Gourang Kodical on tabla and Sri Vyasmurti Katti on harmonium. She also gave a scintillating performance at the end of Guru Vandana programme arranged by her

disciples amongst whom were Deepa Hattangadi and Susheela Mehta.

Kumari Deepa Hattangadi, who is now under the tutelage of Smt. Lalith J Rao, was featured by 'Sursagar' in a morning concert on Sunday 25th July 2004. She created a good impression amongst the audience.

The 20th Konkani One-Act Play Competition for the Naipally Gopalakrishna Memorial Trophy will be held from 24th to 28th November, 2004 at the Tombat Sakharan Rao Memorial Hall.

Two One-Act Plays will be staged on each day and the Prize Distribution will be on the last day. A panel of Judges will decide the award of the prizes. For details, contact Durganand Mullerpatan.

Courtesy: Canara Union News Letter)

Borivli: On the occasion of Gurupurnima, the following programmes were arranged at Vamanashram Hall on 2nd July 2004.

Paduka Puja of H.H. Sadyojat Shankarashram Swamiji followed by Bhakti Sangeet by Smt. Shaila Bangera (nee Hattangadi).

Reported by Subhash D. Kasargod

Chennai: A demonstration on Pranik Healing was conducted by Shri P. N. Chari on Sunday, the 11th July, 2004 at the Dr. Dinkar Rao Memorial Hall at 5.30 p.m.

Shri Chari also taught the art of meditation which produces a deep sense of peace, harmony and Inner Joy. He also explained how Pranik Healing is a no touch, no drug therapy which heals the energy field surrounding the human body. It is a safe, gentle and effective way to relieve pains and suffering, be it mental, emotional or physical. Various ailments like depression, stress, aches and pains etc. could be treated!

Reported by K.V. Mundkur

Hubli : Local Sabha of Chitrapur Saraswats during the first meeting of its Committee Members decided to conduct religious discourses/pravachans on Second Saturday of every month at Shri Shivkrishna Mandir. The first such discourse was delivered by Smt. Shalini Kalbag on Gurukrupa Yoga and Sadhana in May and the second was delivered by Brahmachari Ravichandra Chaitanya of Chinmayanand Mission on Geetopadesh in June. Both speakers presented their subjects with extremely simple and lucid manner thus sustaining the interest of very knowledgeable audience which heard them with rapt attention.

Reported by G.R. Balwalli

Khar: At the AGM of Khar Local Sabha held on July 17, 2004, following office bearers were elected:

Gurunath S. Gokarn - President; Satish S. Trasikar - Hon. Secretary; Niranjana Kulkarni - Jt. Secretary; Sulabha Kulkarni - Treasurer; Jagdish S Naipally - Member; Sharmila Gokarn - Member.

Nashik: The Nashik Sabha of Chitrapur Saraswats conducted the following programmes from **April 03 to March 04** with participation from all the devotees.

1) Guru Poojan ,once a month and on Guru Poornima.

2) Bhajans during Punyatithi of the Guru Swamiji's of our Guru Parampara

3) Bhajans on Gokulasthmi and Mahashivratri

4) Vimarsha (once in 2 months)

5) Meditation , every Saturday morning

6) Recitation of the Stotras from " Navratri Nityapath" every evening during the nine days (Navratri) of Ashwin Shukla Paksha .

7) Discourse by Dharmapracharak Shri V.Rajagopal Bhatnam on "Pancha Maha Yagna"

8) Panchang Vachan by Shri Suresh Rao Bhanose on Yugadi day (21st March '04)

9) Trek at Ramshej ,a small mountain located 10 away from Nashik, did Ashtamoorty Upasana.

All the programmes , except the Trek , were held at the KSA Holiday Home Hall, Nashik.

The Sabha is grateful to the KSA for allowing us to conduct the programmes at the KSA Holiday Home Hall.

Reported by Shyam Honawar

New Delhi Sabha of Chitrapur Saraswats [NDSOS] observed punyatithi of H.H. Pandunrangashrama Samijee on May 21, 2004. Members of the leity had gathered at the residence of Kumtaka Anandmam and offered "Bhajan-umanjali" to the revered Guru. Samuhik bhajans were led by Kumtaka Anandmam, Shobhana Ullal, Vijaya Kumar and Laxmi Rao. The two hour sat-sang concluded with Prasad-vitaran.

The Sabha also celebrated "Guru-Poornima" on July 2, 2004 at the Kavale Math. Around 40 family members of the leity attended the programme, when 13 members performed "Guru-Poojan" under the able guidance of Ved. Chaitnya Bhat, Purohit of the Kavale Math. On conclusion of the pooja samuhik bhajans, led by Sandhya Nayel and Sangeeta Katre, were sung.

On this auspicious day the Sabha announced the commencement of "Aradhana" - Sanskrit Course to be conducted by Sangeeta Katre. Around 15 prospective students registered their names for the course.

Reported by A.P. Kumtaka

Punyanagari: The New Year was ushered with a Pooja and bhajans under the auspices of the Chitrapur Saraswat Local Sabha at the Shri Chitrapur Math. The 'Panchaang-Vaachana' was done in his usual, inimitable humorous style by Savnal Babymam.

The hot weather notwithstanding, the month of May found saadhakas holding a series of Vimarsh sessions on the Sadhana Panchakam, every Sunday after the Shri Guru Poojan.

With the auspicious beginning of the Chaaturmas, Shri Ved Vyasa Poojan was performed. Every dawn, since then, begins with the chanting of the Suprabhatam , followed by the Nitya Poojan. The devotees of Punyanagari, fortu-

nate as ever, can perform the Poojan by themselves in the sacred precincts of the Math. Indeed, it a great blessing to tread on the path shown to us by Poojya Swamiji. A day that begins with the sacred names of the Lord as we chant the Ashtotarah, a day that begins with the fragrance of the Dhoop and a day that begins with the darshan of our beloved Shri Dakshina Moorty will indeed turn out to be the Perfect Day....specially so during the Chaaturmaas!

Punyanaagarikaars clapped their hands in sheer delight at the lively bhajans of Smt. Mangala Vasant Tavandi, from New Delhi, on the evening of "Bhajan Sandhya" . A bubbly collection of devotional songs including Jogva and Bharud in Gondhali style originating from the rural hamlets of Maharashtra had the audience clapping for more. Smt. Radhika Ubhaykar and her students along with Smt. Suman Nagarkatti, with their melodious bhajans made the entire " Bhajan Sandhya" programme a thumping success.

Asato Ma Sadgamaya..... the Pravachan Series by our Dharmapracharak, Shri Vittal Rajgopal Bhat, in the last week of July was truly inspiring. The unhindered and graceful flow of his words, so judiciously explained in that limited period will continue to guide us in our lives. We are indeed grateful to Rajgopalnam for accepting our invitation to visit Pune every year.

Reported by Jyothi Divgi

Vile Parle: A function of get-together of Sanskrit Aradhana Class students was held on Saturday the 17th July 2004 at the residence of Smt. Shamala Bhat, 'Guruprasad'. After having completed 'Aradhana' course of six months students are now eagerly waiting to join Sanskrit 'Sadhana Course'. The function was mainly organised to honour Shri Kishore Adurmam for his simple and beautiful manner of teaching and also to celebrate 'Sangata' programme of the course. The class comprised of students from teenager to senior citizens. The programme began with welcome song (Rachana) on Sanskrit Bhasha from 'Geyasanskritam' by Aparna Nagarkatti and welcome speech by Smt. Nandini Bolangady. In a valedictory speech Shri Adurmam emphasised that more and more students should enrol for Sanskrit class to know



and understand our ancient and beautiful language.

In the AGM of Vile Parle Sabha held on 18th July 2004 the following members were elected.

Raghuveer Biyar - President; Murlidhar Bagade - Vice-President; Gurudutt Heblekar - Hon. Secretary; Ramdas Karnad (Rao) - Hon. Treasurer

Smt. Sujata Mudur as Internal Auditor. There are 171 families and 313 Vantiga payers. The Vantiga collection amounted to Rs. 2,69,501 for the year ending March 04.

Reported by Shrikar Talgeri

Vile Parle: 'Guru Pornima' was celebrated by the students and disciples of noted composer, music director, lyricist Shri Chandrakant Sutar on 11th July 2004 at Ramabai Paranjape Hall of Parle Tilak Vidyalaya.

About 15 children and equal number of other adults presented their songs in a very enchanting and in amelachionous voice presented various bhaktigeet, bhavgeet and premgeet. Amongst the singers who stole the show were Smt. Prashanti Rajesh Bhat (nee Nadkarni), followed by Dr. Harish Kodyal who proved that besides medical profession, he also excels in the musical field. The others who also presented the songs were Smt. Shamala Mavinkurve and Shri Ashok Mavinkurve (not related to each other). The programme was attended by noted playback singer Shri Govind Powale and composers and poet Shri Gurunath Shenoy and Shri Gangadhar Mahambre.

Reported by Anil Bijur

Vakola : 80th Pratishtha Day of Shree Gurudev Datt Mandir was celebrated on Friday the 18th June 2004 with Havan "Datt Yag" in the morning and in the evening Hari Kirtan by HBP Shri Suhas Sarpotdar was held.

A week long programme was arranged from 16th June to 23rd June 2004, when 2 Harikirtans and 6 Bhajan were held.

Saraswat Mahila Samaj, Gamdevi, Mumbai:

Monsoon is a good time to catch up on reading and discussing books with friends makes it an enjoyable activity. This is what a large gathering did on 21st July in the program "Why This book impressed me".

Biographies and memoirs of pathfinders and well known social activists like Baba Amte, George Washington Carver, Sudha Murthy, Kiran Bedi who have and are trying to make this world a better place, all time popular self improvement books, famous classics of Marathi and English literature, spiritual books and also some unforgettable columns from news papers were the topics of review.

The presence of Smt. Nirmala Bhatkal and Late Smt. Meera Kumtha, the two seniors very closely associated with House Of Books, "The Popular Book Depot" made the session all the more special. In spite of indifferent health and braving the incessant rains, both of them attended the program. Each of them reminisced some of the books from their vast store house of reading which they said was ever-green in their memory.

The enthusiastic participation of the members present made this review session very interesting and informative. Kalindi Kodial introduced the speakers and Shamal Yennemadi proposed a vote of thanks.

Forthcoming Programs: 4.9.04 - Saturday Foundation Day at Talmakiwadi at 5 P.M.

Reported by Suman Kodial

Vivekanand Mudur



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Mumbai - 400 057

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Something to Share...

15th August and presentation of Patriotic songs by Mahila Samaj

Dr. Leena V. Gangolli, Mumbai

The flag-hoisting ceremony, followed by patriotic songs, held in Talmaki Wadi on the 15th of August, 2004, made such an impact on me that I felt compelled to pen down a few lines to share with a larger group.

When I glanced out of the window, I noted with a degree of concern that the monsoon clouds were giving us their best and wondered if the flag-hoisting function would be postponed. Luckily the rain let up at around 9:20 a.m. and, in keeping with the tradition of punctuality of both the Kanara Saraswat Association (KSA) and the Saraswat Mahila Samaj, the programme started as planned.

The Shirur Square was a kaleidoscope of patriotic colours and textures - from the awe-inspiring uniform and medals worn by Lt. General Prakash Gokarn, PVSM, AVSM, President of the KSA, to the crisp white saris with orange or green highlights worn by the ladies of the Mahila Samaj. The others who had gathered were in pristine white or shades of green or orange; there was a lot of khadi (handspun cotton) too. All in all, the atmosphere was vibrant with a patriotic mood. The monsoon clouds granted us enough time for the Lt. General Gokarn, to unfurl the flag, following which the crowd burst forth with the National Anthem. As the words "...Jaya, Jaya, Jaya, Jaya Hey!" reverberated in the square, it started drizzling, and within seconds a heavy downpour guided us all into Anandashram Hall to hear the Address by the President of the KSA.

To say that Lt. General Gokarn's words and the songs presented by the Mahila Samaj were inspiring would hardly be doing justice to the emotions stirred in the hearts of the listeners. Throughout the programme, one experienced a medley of emotions, from pride to pain to gratitude - pride for the country and its people, pain shared with those who had lost their loved ones, and a deep sense of gratitude for the countless known and unknown patriots who had fought and continue to fight to safeguard our freedom.

For me, the highlight of the President's speech was his reference to *Veer Naris*, or the courageous women who are an important part of the struggle for freedom, and were and continue to be behind the heroes of our country. *Veer Naris* are the mothers who raise these heroes to lose them for a great cause, and the wives who single-handedly care for the elders and

children while bravely facing the grim reality of prolonged separation and possible bereavement. The President shared stories of many women who have lost a husband or children, some women having lost both. The sacrifice for the quest and preservation of our freedom is indeed borne by many people - one could only feel a sense of deep gratitude and profound humility. I was alarmed at my own lack of awareness - every day, I live a life of freedom and peace, thanks to the sacrifice made and being made by countless others to whom I should be eternally indebted. I was also grateful to Lt. General Gokarn for invoking this awareness in me.

The Mahila Samaj presented some soul-stirring patriotic songs - some familiar, some new to me, but all of them effectively chosen (as if handpicked!) - lucidly explained by Prof. Smt. Sadhana Kamat and beautifully sung by the Saraswati Vrindagaan. From works by Veer Savarkar to songs from movies made in the pre-independence era, the spellbound audience was transported back in time to the days of the freedom struggle, when patriotism and sacrifice formed the essence of people's lives. The commentary provided by Smt. Kamat made the songs all the more meaningful since she gave a translation and a little background for each song. She also shared anecdotes from the days of the freedom struggle and one could see many eyes moist with nostalgic tears as people remembered "those days". She quoted an African freedom fighter who said that the sweetest music for him was the sound of metal chains (used to bind prisoners) falling to the floor as the prisoners were released. The entire presentation was so thought-provoking and inspiring that I can only hope that we continue to have programmes like this one and that more people can be exposed to the noble thoughts presented therein. The last song reminded the youth of India that freedom was won at a heavy price and that it is now our duty to cherish and safeguard the country.

It would seem impertinent if I were to express my gratitude to the freedom fighters and defense personnel for I feel that my words would be mere words until I really accomplished something. However, at this point, I would like to thank Lt. General Gokarn, the KSA, and the Saraswat Mahila Samaj for a memorable event that truly kindled the flame of patriotism in our hearts. *Bharat Gauravaya Namaha!*

Pages from A Traveller's Diary

Kumud Nayel, Bangalore

Friday, 25 June 2001

We were in India on a holiday to meet our family. Our son, Jay, was born in the U.K. and we wished that he should meet his cousins, grandparents and get to know his country, India. We visited Shirali, Delhi, Bombay and last, but not the least, Bangalore - the most beautiful of all places.

After running around the parks, gardens, amusement parks and water kingdoms, we wanted him to experience the feel of Indian butter on his tiny fingers. So we rushed to the most famous local restaurant, M.T.R., at Lal Bagh. It was closing time for the tiffin rooms. We ordered a Butter *Dosa* for our five-year-old.

The bearer's face fell. "Sorry Sir," he said sadly, "It's closing time and we have only *one dosa* left." He pointed to a family at the next table, "The last *dosa*, Sir, has already been ordered for their child," he apologised.

The gentleman at the next table smiled at us. "It's O.K.," he said in his sweet South Indian accent, "Sir, let your child have the *dosa*, we'll order something else for our boy."

The bearer brought us a hot buttery *dosa* on a banana leaf. The whole room smelt of Indian Butter. Jay dug his tiny fingers into the *dosa* and then into his mouth. Licking his fingers and smacking his lips, he squeaked, "Oh, it's yummy!"

The entire family at the next table looked more thrilled than Jay. Closing time was rather rushed. There was no time to exchange visiting cards or names, leave alone telephone numbers. We knew them only as the-family-at-the-next-table. They left the restaurant a little before us.

As the bearer came in to clear our table, I asked for the bill. "Sir," he smiled shyly and in his perfect Mysorean accent said, "That family who just left have paid for your whole order, Sir." He then casually cleared the table and left without even waiting for his tip. It seemed such a casual, everyday occurrence to the bearer, but to us? My jaw dropped in surprise!

The family at the next the table in a restaurant, whom we didn't even know, had given our son joy worth millions. And all because we shared the soil of our country and the colour of our skin!

Thursday, 2 Aug 2002

I was on a business trip to the USA and had been invited to dinner in a restaurant by an office colleague. Just as I was about to leave, an old friend who happened to be in town called up. I asked him to join me for dinner so we could spend some time together before requesting my host to allow me a guest.

My host welcomed us and ordered our dinner at the restaurant. It was one of those joints where tables buzzed with business talk and glasses clinked to sounds of official laughter.

When the bill came, my host paid it and passed the bill across the table to me, "Could you please pay for your guest?" he smiled courteously across the dinner table.

I held the bill awkwardly, too confused to speak. But my friend, who had driven miles in the cold to meet me, briskly jerked the bill out of my stunned hands and quietly paid the dollar for his own dinner.

As we came out of the restaurant, he playfully slapped me across the shoulder and winked, "This sort of thing would never happen in India, isn't it?" he asked with a wicked twinkle in his eyes.

It was not a big amount that he had paid for his dinner that night - but a priceless compliment to the country he had left behind years ago!

Rare opportunity!

D'AMEL SWARA SADHANA

in association with the

Kanara Saraswat Association (Regd.)

Presents A Tribute to D'Amel

A live Programme of D'Amel

(Dinkar Rao Amemba) compositions

Date & Time:

On Sunday September 26, 2004 at 10 a.m.

Venue:

Karnatak Sangh, Matunga, Mumbai - 400 016.

Interested music lovers please contact:

Shobhana Rao, at KSA Office (23802263),

Dilip Sashital (56005602 & 9820014862)

Nalini Balsekar - 24973435,

Geeta Naphade (Amemba) - 28348628

Prakash Burde - 23879691

for Entry passes.

10. GOLDEN RULES FOR A HAPPY, PEACEFUL AND HEALTHY LONG LIFE

1. Trust in God. He will always help you.
2. Pray to God twice a day morning and evening.
3. Honesty is the best policy, always speak the truth, truth has helped me all my life.
4. Be hard working, industrious and sincere. You will get success in life.
5. Love your family, they are your supporters in good and bad times.
6. Be kind and affectionate to your friends and neighbours.
7. Be nice to everyone. It does not cost you anything.
8. Help all you can.
9. After age 40, eat less, walk more.
10. Keep a smiling face. If you are good to the world, the world is good to you.

W.B. Do not smoke, chew tobacco, nor drink alcohol.

S.L. Balse

MY UTOPIA

I do not know from where I have come. I do not know where I will be when I die. But I do know where I am at present as long as I am alive. My desire is to be happy, comfortable and content and create A HEAVEN on this EARTH.

Heaven is a place where EVERYONE is happy. So my aim is to SPREAD HAPPINESS all AROUND ME. "Charity begins at Home" I have to be Happy and so also all my family members. I must be Honest, contentious, industrious, kind and compassionate to all. I must realize the hopes and aspirations of all my family members, encourage and help them to achieve their ambitions and live happy and content. I must also try and help my relatives, friends and neighbours to achieve freedom from want and live in happiness and contentment.

Most important is the GOD has created all of us.. I must be kind and considerate and treat them with affection.

So my principle is to spread goodwill, love and happiness all around me. When I see their smiling and happy faces, this is my HEAVEN ON EARTH and is MY UTOPIA

S.L. Balse

Chaturmasya Vrita of Saraswat Gurupeethas Shri Chitrapur Math



H.H. Shrimat Sadyojat Shankarashram Swamiji of Shri Chitrapur Math is observing the current year's vrita at Vittal, Dakshina Kannada District in Shri Ananteshwar Temple, Vittal.

Shri Kashi Math Samsthan



The current year's Chaturmas of H.H. Shrimat Sudhindra Tirth Swamiji is taking place in Mumbai at GSB Sabha's Kreedha Mandir, Kings Circle, Mumbai.

Shri Kavle Math



Their Holiness' Shri Kavle Math Guru & Pattashishya Swamijis are observing Chaturmasya in Shri Durga Parameshwari Temple, Bantakal, Via Katapadi, Udupi District. The Temple belongs to Rajapur Saraswats dedicated to Mother Goddess Durga Parameshwari.

Shri Gokarn Partagali Jeevotham Math



Pandharpur, the world-renowned pilgrimage centre also known as Dakshina Dwaraka, the abode of Lord Vithal, is the venue of Shri Gokarn Math Swamiji's Chaturmasya of this year.

Fifty Years of Manipal

K.G. Mallya

During the Centenary Year of Saraswat Vidyarthi Sayahayk Mandali, Girgaum, Mumbai, a NGO dedicated to education by way of awarding scholarships, while going through the list of past scholars who had received the scholarships in the last one hundred years, Shri N.V. Gunjikar our President came across a name and he had a doubt whether it was the famous founder of Manipal, Dr. Tonse Madhav Anant Pai and yes, it was the same person, hailing from a middle class family who pursued higher education on scholarships and freeships and became a medical doctor and started practice in a rural area called Kadekar, close to Udupi. But he was destined not to continue a practising medical doctor but to become a banker (CMD of Syndicate Bank) and then an Educationist not to found only the schools and colleges to impart academic education but to start professional colleges like Medical and Engineering that the country needed the most. And throughout, success was with him though initially people laughed at him and scoffed at his ideas terming his projects as "carrying soil to the hillock" (where it is available in plenty), a futile exercise.

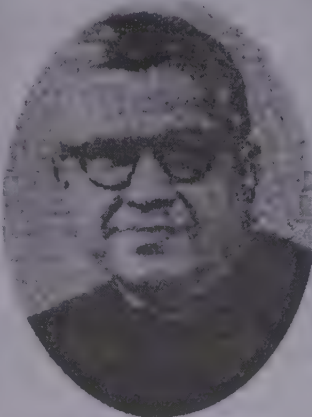
Pond of Soil:

50 years ago Manipal was a tiny and barren hillock some 4 kms away from Udupi on the way to Karkal. Not only No man's land but also nothing was growing there. The place got the name of Manipal from Manna-palla, literally to mean (in Tulu) a pond of soil, which can be seen even today. In the centre of the now-become modern township there is a place called Tiger Circle and this is not an ordinary name. We are told that the place derived its name as, in those days during day-time tigers were freely roaming here! Such a terrible place has now become a blossoming township on account of the vision and hard-work of one person, only one person, that was Padmashree Dr. Tonse Madhav A. Pai. (1898 to 1979).

Internationally Renowned:

Since inception Manipal never remained within the small boundaries of the village though it did not have post office or a village panchayat. For all purposes it was a tiny hamlet. Dr. Pai himself took interest in developing it as an internationally renowned educational centre and after 5 decades what are achievements of the Educational Organisation he has founded?

Incredible it is: 2 Universities, 21 Professional Colleges, 90,000 Students, 1,32,000 Alumni, Students from 31 countries, 11 Hospitals, 7000 Beds, 10,000 Employees and campuses in India: Manipal, Mangalore, Bangalore, Goa and Sikkim and abroad: Nepal, Malaysia, Dubai (UAE), Muscat (Oman). (In the offing: Sri Lanka & Qatar (Source: Economic Times dated 30th Sept 03). And all these are run by Manipal Academy of Higher Education (Deemed University) popularly known as MAHE. (Chancellor: Dr. H.S. Ballal and President: Dr.



Padmashri Dr. Madhav Pai

Ramdas M. Pai)

Mission Statement:

The Manipal Group has the following Mission Statement:

"Global Leadership in Human development, Excellence in education & healthcare."

And we are glad that they are working hard in that direction and we wish them all success.

Then, we at AISCO & AISF place on record the very cordial relationship subsisting between the Pairs of Manipal and our organisations since the beginning. Dr. Madav Pai had lent us good support during our formative years which continues even now under the leadership of Shri K.K. Pai and Dr. Ramdas M. Pai.

We wish the Manipal Group a grand success in all their endeavours to become the world leaders in the arena of education and healthcare.

(The Valedictory Function of the Golden Jubilee of Manipal took place in Manipal on 30th April, 2004 and for the first hand experience of medical services)

(Courtesy Samyukta Saraswat July 04)

CLASSIFIEDS

MATRIMONIALS

Alliance invited for slim soft spoken affectionate 26 year 5 ft 2" montessory trained working girl with artistic taste from qualified well settled Bhanap boy below 32 years. Reply with BHP (R) to Box CL-1318, Kanara Saraswat Association, Mumbai 400 007. (R-4844)

Alliance invited for Chitrapur Saraswat boy, 37, 5' 10", graduate, slim, never married, teetotaler, non-smoker, vegetarian, spiritually-inclined, working in reputed software company in Pune - from Saraswat / GSB / Maharashtrian girls, age 29-34, never-married, minimum 5' 1", graduate, vegetarian, soft-spoken, knowing house-keeping. Reply with BHP (returnable) to graceofgod@rediffmail.com or call 020-30902378.

Alliance invited for Mumbai based Bhanap boy 36/ 5'10" self employed. Looking for qualified matching bride preferably with teaching experience. Contact with BHP (returnable) to Box CL-1328, Kanara Saraswat Association, Mumbai - 400 007. (R-4867)

ENGAGEMENT

Gokarn-Karnad: Narendra, son of Vidya (Pratibha) and Ashok N. Gokarn with Shreya, daughter of Vijaya and Anil R. Karnad of Chennai on July 11th, 2004 at Pune.

Dhareshwar-Kamat: Jayesh son of Smt. Anuradha and Shri Dinkar Dhareshwar of Pune with Pratima daughter of Smt. Nirmala and Shri Devidas Kamat of Solapur on 8th August, 2004 at Mumbai. (R-4869)

BIRTH

A daughter Shivani to Anuradha and Rajiv Nagarkatti on 31st July 2004 at Detroit (USA) Grand-daughter to Mangala and Mohan Nagarkatti and Vasanti and Manohar Chittar. (R-4867)

A daughter, Seema to Arati and Rajesh Shedde on August 6, 2004, at Boston, USA, grand-daughter to Vidya and Balkrishna Shedde and Vrinda and Srikrishna Udipti.

A son Shreyas to Michelle and Sameer Gangolli on 16th August 2004, Gudson to Yolanda and Marwyn Rasqinha/ Sangeeta and Sudhir Gangolli, Great grand son to Nirmala Narayan Gangolli. (R-4888)

PROPERTY FOR SALE

Prime Beach House Property opposite Murdeshwar temple for sale. Half acre well developed non agricultural land with compound wall, 4000 sq. ft. modern villa: ground floor 1000 sq.ft Satsang Hall and 2 bedrooms, first floor 3 bedrooms. Separate dining area. 4 toilets. Roofed terrace. Car park. Fresh water well. Interested parties contact Krishnanand Chandavarkar Bangalore tel : 080 28434897. email: sachin@chandavarkar.com

REAL ESTATE BONANZA

For sale 3 acres prime agricultural land (NA imminent with steep appreciation) 4 kms from Panvel Off Pune Highway. Contact Hosangady Tel: 23611255/23693766.

FLAT FOR SALE

Two adjoining flats for sale at Rajaji Nagar Bangalore area 1040 sq.ft. Contact Ashok Savkur Bangalore Tel: 23572774 or Suvarna Gulwadi Mumbai Tel: 25160807.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Ratnakar Sanjiv Shirali, D/403, Lakshachandi Tower, Krishna Vatika Marg, Gokuldham, Goregaon (E), Mumbai 400 063. Tel. No. (M) 39511154

DOMESTIC TIDINGS

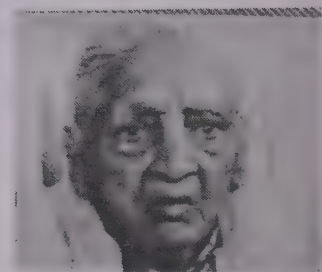
BIRTHS

- Apr 20 : A daughter (Taniya) to Deepa and Rajesh J. Tallur at Sidney Australia.
Apr 25 : Twin daughters Kanika and Kashika to Shibani and Prasanna Gajanan Trikannad at Mumbai.

OBITUARIES

- Jun 17 : Shirali (Koppikar) Laxminarayan Anant (83) at Shirali.
Jul 13 : Maskeri Ashok Umesh Rao (65) at Bangalore.
Jul 23 : Meera Pandurang Kumta of Mumbai at Pune.
Jul 28 : Gopalkrishna (Goppan) Shankar Bhat (83) at Mumbai.
Aug 1 : Vaknalli Basker Ganesh (69) at Dahisar, Mumbai.
Aug 1 : Shirali Pandurang at Mumbai.
Aug 4 : Manorama Raghavendra Hattangadi (85) at Mumbai.
Aug 8 : Harite Ramdas Narsing (71) at Bangalore.
Aug 17 : Mankikar Anand Mahabaleshwar (89) at Mumbai.
Aug 17 : Gunvante Shantaram M (90) of Khar at Mumbai.

1ST DEATH ANNIVERSARY



Vimalabai Shantaram Mankekar
nee Tara Gulvady
Died on 1-9-03

Fondly remembered by
Son Dr. M.S. Mankekar & family
Son Shri Vijay Mankekar & family
Daughter Smt. Premalata Baindur & family
Daughter late Indu Tirkannad & family

Happy Birthday

Many happy returns of the day to dearest

SAKSHI



On her first birthday 13th Sep 04.
May GOD bestow his blessings on
our blooming flower.

Well-wishes from:

Parents - Sanjay and Anita Dhareshwar
Grand Parents - Bhaskar and Anjani Dhareshwar
Grand Parents - Shivram and Mohini Nadkarni
Great Grandmother - Mirabai Chandavar.

Happy Birthday JAI

10th August 2004



From : Parents - Sarita & Shashank Benegal
Uncle / Aunt - Prashant & Aarti Benegal
Grandparents - Vidya & Vinod Benegal
Grandparents - Kiran & Ram Sagar
Aunts - Suman, Sunita & Neetu

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



*Many Happy
Returns of the Day
To Darling Ved
on your 1st Birthday on
18-09-2004*

*With Lots of Blesings & Love
from
Grand Parents : Raghuvir Shirur
Gurudatt and Suman Karopady
Parents: Vinay and Gauri Shirur*

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Second Death Anniversary



Lily S. Rao

(Vartanoush Badalian)

Founder Director - Pest Control (India) Pvt. Ltd.

**N.S. Rao & Family and all at PCI miss you in
this 50th Year of the Company**

The Light Has Gone. Her Love Lingers On.....

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